

# Jordan Times

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## Baker signs accord with 4 nuclear republics

LISBON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker gathered Saturday with foreign ministers of four former Soviet republics to sign an agreement that commits them to observe the START missile-reduction treaty. The ceremony culminated nearly six months of tedious negotiations by Mr. Baker with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus on a protocol to the treaty. It binds them to the terms accepted by the Soviet Union before its disintegration last December. And it sets the stage for hearings on U.S. Senate ratification and negotiations with Russia to trim strategic nuclear arsenals below the cuts mandated by the accord. Ukraine now ranks as the third-most-powerful nuclear nation in the world, and Kazakhstan is right behind, in fourth place. Together, they have more nuclear weapons on their soil than Britain, France and China combined. Along with Belarus, which has a small arsenal of 72 strategic nuclear warheads, the three newly independent states have promised to become nuclear-free and to sign the 1968 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which will prohibit them from acquiring or transferring nuclear technology.

## Students elect council members

AMMAN (J.T.) — University of Jordan students Saturday elected their new 80-member Student Council with students affiliated with the Islamist Movement taking the majority of the seats. Students representing the Islamist Movement in Jordan won 90 per cent of the votes, thereby accommodating 90 per cent of the 80 seats on the council. Candidates who support the Islamist Movement managed to elect students from every faculty with exception to the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Sports. According to dean of Student Affairs Mohammad Khreisat, 251 students competed for the membership of the board. He noted that the number of students who casted their votes in Saturday's elections was 19,994 students. Dr. Khreisat said the election results would be accepted if the student turnout exceeded 50 per cent of the total number of students eligible to vote. Talking about the objectives of the council, Dr. Khreisat said it aimed to support student activities in the scientific, cultural and sports fields and enhance spirit of cooperation and the concept of collective work. The council will also be involved in pursuing students' issues with the university's administration, promoting democratic practices, and encouraging dialogue. All results of the vote will be approved by the university council.

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## Algerian forces kill 1, arrest 43

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces have killed a man and arrested 43 others in a gun-battle with Muslim fundamentalists who tried to stop a government-appointed cleric from preaching. Algerians Radio reported on Saturday. It said the fundamentalists tried to prevent the cleric from preaching a Friday sermon in the Chebli district near Blida, about 50 kilometres south of Algiers. One activist, disguised in a woman's veil, made a "provocative" speech, forcing paramilitary gendarmes to intervene, the official news agency APS said.

## Pakistan seals border with India

KARACHI (AP) — Pakistan sealed its southeastern border with India Saturday after accusing its neighbour of stirring up trouble in violence-wracked Sindh province, an army spokesman said. The border closure was part of a major "cleanup" operation in Sindh, and at least 32,000 military and paramilitary officers were called in, said the official. Pakistan routinely accuses India of arming and training terrorists, then sending them across the border into Sindh.

## OAU to admit South Africa

ADDIS ABABA (R) — South Africa can join the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) once black and white groups there agree on an interim government, OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim said on Saturday. Formation and installation of an "interim government" will be the benchmark. At that stage, the point of irreversibility will have been reached and Africa will have no reason to continue isolating that country, he said in a statement marking the 29th anniversary of the formation of the OAU next Monday.

## 7 killed in Kurdish clashes in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Five Kurdish rebels, one Turkish officer and a soldier were killed in two separate incidents in southeast Turkey on Saturday, Anadolu news agency said. It said the rebels from the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were killed in a clash near the town of Silvan where troops seized 13 rifles and five guns and ammunition. In another incident PKK rebels killed an officer and a soldier by ambushing their patrol near Pervari town of the Siirt province, Anadolu said.

## Iraqis request Greek asylum

KHIOS, Greece (AP) — A group of 57 Iraqi Christians requested political asylum in Greece after being found in a boat that had been towed into Greek waters by a Turkish speedboat on Saturday, police said. The group comprised 38 men, 10 women and nine children. They said they were members of Iraq's small Christian minority, an officer on this eastern Aegean island said. Illegal immigrants who request political asylum are allowed to stay in Greece while their case is considered.

## Ex-Soviets want OPEC membership

VIENNA (AP) — Former Soviet republics of Russia and Kazakhstan, both oil producers, have asked questions about possible membership in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a senior OPEC official said Saturday. The official said the former republics requested information about the rights, obligations and financial contributions required of members. "We do not close the door," he said. "We do not open the door too widely." Russia produces the lion's share of oil on the territory of the former Soviet Union. The International Energy Agency estimated that the former republics pumped a total of 9.5 million barrels a day in March. The Soviet Union was the world's largest oil producer. The OPEC's 13 members are: Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

## National strategy on environment unveiled

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Saturday unveiled a national strategy on the environment, taking into consideration the various aspects of air and water pollution, desertification and agriculture and setting short-, medium- and long-term objectives. The strategy, which took over two years to prepare, was presented at a conference attended by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and senior officials and experts. Presenting the strategy document, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat said that successive governments in Jordan had received constant directives from the King on the need to provide measures designed to ensure the protection of human, animals and plants and to ensure a safe environment. The minister said that the King's personal participation in international conferences on environmental protection had given further impetus to the drawing up of the national strategy. The announcement of the national strategy on the environment today is an affirmation by Jordan of its efforts to give due attention to the question of safeguarding human lives by protecting the soil, water resources and the atmosphere and thus ensure sustainable socio-economic development for the future generations, Mr. Tubeishat said. Over 170 Jordanian experts in various fields took 30 months to put together this document after intense research and detailed study, he said. The strategy calls for various concerned departments and private sector organisations to pool their efforts to ensure a safe environment in Jordan. "We are not the only nation to draw up such a strategy, but we are certainly among the first to do so, and will do all that in our power to achieve its goals," the minister said. The pressing reasons for the national strategy on the environment in Jordan, Dr. Tubeishat said, included: — Shrinking of the agricultural land due to the encroachment of urban areas and the construction of roads and buildings. — Shrinking of the green areas of Jordan, represented in the forests and caused by fires and cutting down of trees. — The elimination of a large number of fauna and flora in their natural habitat. — Pollution of rivers and dam reservoirs as well as sea coasts and the soil through various industrial and agricultural activities. — The contamination of the air due to the presence of fumes and factory smoke as well as the poisonous fumes of means of transport. Dr. Tubeishat told the audience that the Department of Environment was created at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs in 1980 partly in order to prepare for the national strategy. Jordan was among 30 world nations that have adopted an international declaration on the protection of the world environment and agreed to allocate funds for its implementation, the minister pointed out. He said that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) agreed in 1988 to provide funds to partly finance the Jordanian project. (Continued on page 5)

## Artillery duels continue in S. Lebanon for fifth day running

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Sporadic shellfire exchanges kept tension high in South Lebanon Saturday, the fifth day of violence between Israeli troops and Lebanese resistance fighters, police said. They said two Lebanese civilians were killed and 20 wounded in duels that erupted Friday, intensified overnight and raged for most of the day Saturday. The new casualties lifted to 16 killed and 45 wounded the overall toll of air and ground hostilities that have pitted Israel and its surrogate militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), against Iranian-backed Lebanese fighters of Hizbollah. Police said a Hizbollah position fired two Katyusha rockets into Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon before sundown. An Israeli post struck back with three salvoes of 155-millimetre Howitzer fire. President Elias Hrawi summoned separate meetings of the cabinet and the Higher Defence Council, which groups commanders of various armed services, to discuss the situation in the south. "Measures were taken to strengthen the steadfastness of our population at their home-towns and villages with all available means," an official statement said. Although the statement did not elaborate, the inference was that authorities would try to avoid a mass exodus of the civilian population from the south, without saying how. The latest cycle of violence erupted Tuesday, when Hizbollah fighters killed an SLA militiaman and captured four others in a raid into the "security zone." Israel's air force intervened Thursday, blasting Hizbollah bases in the eastern Bekaa Valley, near Syria's border, and in the south in four bombing runs. The strikes, the bloodiest and deepest of Israel's nine air raids in Lebanon this year, killed 13 people and wounded 25. Saturday's shelling began after a morning lull which allowed thousands of civilians to escape a string of battered villages on the Iqlim Al Toufah ridge, 40 kilometres south of Beirut. "I'm getting out because the situation is unbearable," said Subbia Hamad, 60, driving away from Jarjough village with her seven children. "The Israelis have threatened all the residents of villages near the zone. We think there will be a big battle." The duels were the heaviest since guerrillas fired dozens of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel and the "security zone" in February, shortly after Israeli helicopters killed Hizbollah chief Sheikh Abbas Musawi, his wife and son. Security sources and witnesses estimated over 6,000 people fled their homes in Iqlim al Toufah and 8,000 left four villages in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in the previous 24 hours. Cars, filled with frightened families, bedding and a few hurriedly-packed belongings, streamed out of villages shortly after the thunder of artillery and rocket-fire ceased at dawn. The United States on Friday urged maximum restraint in South Lebanon and said the Hizbollah guerrillas must be disarmed. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy warned Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon where



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (left) and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat Saturday attend a conference where a national strategy on the environment was launched (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

## Kurdish elections go to run-off

ERBIL, Iraq (Agencies) — Elections in rebel-held northern Iraq have ended in a dead heat forcing a run-off between the two top Kurdish leaders. Massoud Barzani won the most votes but not an absolute majority in the four-way contest for paramount leader of the Kurds, forcing a run-off with his rival Jalal Talabani. Mr. Barzani took 466,879 of the 982,649 leadership ballots, just 25,822 more than Mr. Talabani. The remainder went to two fringe candidates or were blank. The city of Erbil erupted in celebratory gunfire and tracer rounds lit the night sky as word of the election returns went out over Kurdish radio and television, late Friday. "This is not a victory for a single party... the Kurdish people are the winners tonight," Mr. Barzani told reporters as the results were announced. In the parliamentary contest, Mr. Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Mr. Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) ended in a dead heat with 50 seats each. Mr. Barzani favours coexistence with the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein while Mr. Talabani opposes any concessions to Baghdad. The Iraqi government, which has about 100,000 troops stationed on the edges of the rebel-held area, had said Thursday's vote was illegal. The result indicated that the Kurds could continue to suffer from unstable leadership. (Continued on page 5)

## Beirut adopts economic plan

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's government on Saturday approved measures intended to end an economic crisis and push for an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon. No details of the economic programme were released. Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh told reporters after a meeting of his week-old government that it probably would be submitted to parliament next week for a vote. Political sources said Mr. Solh wanted to revive the economy whose slump started riots that toppled his predecessor Omar Karami and threatened renewed chaos despite an end to 15 years of civil war. The cabinet also endorsed urgent implementation of U.N. Resolution 425 which calls for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from a buffer strip it has held in South Lebanon since 1985.



A mother welcomes her son, just released from prison in Bangkok after being arrested during pro-democracy protests last week

## Bilateral agreements finalised with four Paris Club members

'Ball in court of London Club' on commercial debts

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has finalised bilateral debt rescheduling agreements with four countries and is pursuing contacts with others in line with an agreement reached with the Paris Club of government creditors in February, covering payments originally due between mid-1991 and mid-1993, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michel Marto said Saturday. "We have progressed very well in our contacts with the creditor governments," Mr. Marto said. "We have already finalised agreements with the United States and Canada and expect to sign accords with Denmark and France soon," he added. "Discussions with the others are continuing and we hope to conclude all agreements," before the target date of September. The amount involved in the agreement with the U.S. is \$127.8 million and includes loans and guarantees provided to Jordan by the Agency for International Development, the Department of Defence, the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Eximbank. The Canadian and Danish accords cover a "few million each," Mr. Marto told the Jordan Times. The agreement with France involves close to one billion French francs (about \$184 million), said Mr. Marto, who returned from Paris Friday after putting the final touches on the accord, which is expected to be signed soon. The accord reached with the Paris Club set out the terms and conditions for separate bilateral agreements with 14 government creditors to be concluded before September this year. The total amount involved in the accord, Mr. Marto said, was around \$800 million, including \$603 million due in 1992 and 50 per cent of the interest, Jordan has to pay the other half of the interest. Under the agreement, government-to-government debts were rescheduled for 10 years with a grace period of 10 years and development loans were rescheduled for eight years with a seven-year grace period. On Jordan's commercial debts, Mr. Marto said the government was awaiting a new draft agreement with the London Club of commercial creditors after Amman turned down an earlier draft which was found to be "much short of our expectations and the initial agreement" that was reached in early March. "The ball is their court now." CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi explained that "there was a lot of shortcomings" in the draft agreement in terms of the debt buy-back, conversion and swap objectives that were sought by Jordan along the lines of the Brady plan, which offers debt relief. Jordan's debts to commercial banks and financial institutions grouped under the London Club are around \$1 billion, Dr. Nabulsi told the Jordan Times. Dr. Nabulsi said Jordan was not expecting a debt write-off per se, but pointed out that "debt buy-back" at a discounted rate amounted to some form of debt "write-down of a significantly high



Michel Marto

## Suchinda reportedly seeking exile after bloody Thai unrest

BANGKOK (Agencies) — General Suchinda Kraprayoon's brief but bloody tenure as Thai prime minister appeared to be drawing to a close on Saturday after a week of clashes between soldiers and demonstrators. But the fate of his military cronies, who the opposition says share the blame for bloodshed in which dozens died and hundreds were injured, was uncertain. Mr. Suchinda, leader of a military coup 16 months ago and appointed prime minister on April 7, was reported to be casting around for a foreign country to flee to. A senior military source said Mr. Suchinda had met King Bhumibol Adulyadej late on Friday and may have submitted his resignation. Parliament is due on Monday to debate constitutional amendments that would require him to resign. "The pressure is very much at a boiling point," said Surin Pitsuwan, a senior official of the opposition Democrat Party. "Everybody who is anybody in this country believes it is best for him to resign." The king on Friday night signed an amnesty decree covering all the demonstrators and all who took action against them. The decree, a text of which was obtained by the Associated Press, said the clemency was being granted "in order to have peace and unity in the country." Mr. Surin said reliable government sources told him that Mr. Suchinda was offered clemency "to smooth the way out" of power. Public outrage over the military crackdown that left at least 40 people dead during pro-democracy demonstrations earlier this week has led to demands that Mr. Suchinda and military officials be prosecuted. The report of clemency was confirmed by a senior Western diplomat, who said it was extended to everyone involved in the demonstrations. Student protest organisers, opposition politicians and demonstrators opposed the move. "By Thai law, a person who kills another person should be punished," said Jatuporn Prompan, 26, a student protester. "What we want is Suchinda's resignation as soon as possible and he is not above the law." "But because we love the king, whatever he says, we have to agree with him," Mr. Jatuporn added. Several hundred people listed as missing in the demonstrations likely died at the hands of troops, their bodies either burned on the spot or secretly trucked out of the city, officials said Saturday. The most widely relied upon telephone hotline was reporting 341 people still missing by Saturday evening. Despite the king's enormous influence, clemency was not necessarily assured. Cabinet members were still discussing it Saturday afternoon, Mr. Surin said. Leaders of the democracy movement, including Chamlong Srimuang, were believed lying low for fear that Mr. Suchinda could launch another crackdown. "I move all around because the government tries to shoot me," said Somsak Kosaisuk, one of seven other leaders of the Confederation of Democracy, which organised the protests. The prime minister spent the day conferring with senior colleagues at his official residence, then went to a heavily guarded army camp. Rumours circulated that Mr. Suchinda was about to flee the country, but none could be confirmed. The parliamentary coalition that put Mr. Suchinda in power backed away from the former army chief Friday, proposing constitutional reforms that would force his ouster within weeks. Many government officials stepped forward to condemn Mr. Suchinda's use of troops to fire on protesters, and hundreds of government employees wore black in mourning. Mr. Suchinda's ouster would damage the reputation of powerful military chiefs who accompanied him to power. One is army chief General Issarapong Noom. (Continued on page 5)



## Afghan president honours turncoats

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan's interim president has promoted militia chiefs whose defection to the Mujahadeen helped overthrow the former Soviet-backed government last month, calling them "holy warrior" despite the year they spent fighting for the old government.

In a ceremony in a mosque in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif on Friday, President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi heaped praise on the militias, who fought pitched battles against one Mujahadeen faction earlier this month and whose continued occupation of Kabul threatens to tear apart the country's fragile new coalition government.

Mr. Mojaddidi promoted Uzbek militia leader Abdul Rashid Dostum — whose forces were blamed for looting and atrocities against civilians when they swept into Kabul — from the rank of three-star to four-star general. The interim president said Gen. Dostum, who switched sides only in March, had been a "Mujahed" or holy warrior, for the past six years, most of which time he spent fighting for former President Najibullah.

Gen. Dostum had always "sought his own aims" even while officially part of Mr. Najibullah's forces, Mr. Mojaddidi said. "We pushed out Najibullah because he did not want peace,"

Gen. Dostum said, adding that his forces accepted the authority of the new guerrilla government and would leave Kabul when the Defence Ministry and the "people of Kabul" asked them to.

Mr. Mojaddidi also announced the promotion of several of Gen. Dostum's commanders and other militia leaders to the rank of general.

Gen. Dostum's forces, allied with the guerrillas of new Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud, were crucial both to the overthrow of Mr. Najibullah and to forcing the rival guerrilla faction led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar out of Kabul in the internecine fighting which followed.

Mr. Hekmatyar's forces, now on the southern fringes of the capital, have demanded that the militias from the northern Afghanistan leave the city before they will cooperate with the ruling coalition.

Guerrilla peacebrokers declared on Thursday they had forged a five-point agreement between the warring factions which called on them to withdraw from "fighting positions."

Gen. Dostum's and Mr. Hekmatyar's men face each other across a no man's land a few hundred metres wide in southern Kabul.

## U.S. Senate panel demands material on Iraq credit scandal

WASHINGTON (R) — A second congressional panel on Friday asked President George Bush's administration to hand over documents for an investigation into the possible misuse of \$5 billion of agricultural credits the United States extended to Iraq in the 1980s.

Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said the committee's request was made because officials were not cooperating with General Accounting Office (GAO) investigators. The GAO is a congressional agency.

The panel sought documents from the U.S. State, Treasury and Agriculture departments as well as the board of the Federal Reserve, the country's central bank.

The letters asked for virtually all material related to Iraq's participation in the credit programme, the investigation of fraudulent loans to Iraq by the Atlanta branch of the Banca Nazionale

del Lavoro and knowledge of possible misuse or diversion of the credits.

There have been repeated suggestions the credits may have been used to build up the Iraqi war machine.

On Thursday at a hearing before a house of representatives panel, administration officials said there was no evidence of such a diversion. They also defended use of the credits as a tool to try to restrain Iraq.

The administration has refused to provide material to the house banking committee on grounds the information was classified. However, it has said it was prepared to work with other committees.

Iraq received \$5 billion of credits, used to facilitate exports of U.S. farm products, starting in 1983. Critics say credits were offered even when it was obvious Iraq could not repay the loans and when the evidence of corruption was mounting.

## Kuwait sentences two Iraqis to death

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti court on Saturday sentenced two Iraqi men to death for collaborating with Iraq during its seven-month occupation of the emirate in 1990.

It was the first death sentence passed by the court since the trials of suspected collaborators resumed on April 11.

Kuwait suspended trials in June when it reverted to civilian rule after four months of martial law and set up a court of appeal to ensure greater legal protection for suspects.

Defence lawyers said the two Iraqi men, Ghalib Abdul Hamid, 29, and Mohsen Taher, would now have the right to appear in a court of appeal.

"They can ask a court of appeal to look into the sentence and see whether it is within the law," one defence lawyer said.

Capital punishment remains in force in Kuwait, but the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, can commute death sentences.

Abdul Hamid was charged with informing on Kuwaitis resisting Iraq's occupation and torturing them in Iraqi detention centres. Taher was found guilty of informing on Kuwaitis, carrying arms and preaching in a mosque against the emir.

The state security court also acquitted a Kuwaiti suspect and sentenced two stateless Arabs to seven years in jail each.

Western governments and human rights groups criticised Kuwait's legal system last year when suspected collaborators were tried in martial law courts without the right of appeal.

The court of appeal, the first in Kuwait for national security offences, was created under security laws amended last year to guarantee the rights of political detainees.

Lawyers said the state security court would look into 60 cases arising from the occupation and they expected the trials to last several months.

They said around 100 people were being held on national security offences and some still under investigation.

Dozens of suspects have been freed in the last few months. Kuwait's legal system came under attack last year when the martial law courts sentenced 29 people to death for "collaboration". The sentences were later commuted to life imprisonment.

## Sudan sends team for Abuja talks with rebels

KHARTOUM (AP) — Flush with a string of battlefield successes, Sudan's military government sent negotiators to Nigeria on Saturday to sit with rebels in what appears the best chance yet to end a civil war bleeding Sudan for nine years.

The government enters Monday's negotiations in an apparent dominant position for the first time. But it has outlined a package of proposals that appears to offer significant concessions to rebel demands.

Sudan is Africa's largest country, with an agricultural potential so vast that it once was considered the best hope to end cycles of famine that traditionally have plagued the continent's north-eastern quadrant. But a series of incompetent, corrupt, often brutal governments since independence in 1956 — a period characterised by energy-sapping north-south civil wars — has turned a possible breadbasket into a basket case.

"Previous governments resorted to tranquilisers to resolve the south Sudan question," Mohammed Al Amin Khalifa, who heads the government's negotiating panel, said this month. "The present government has laid down a programme for lasting peace, including a federal system, power-sharing... and equal opportunities of development and services."

The current war began in 1983 when U.S.-educated army Colonel John Garang led a mutiny in the garrison of his southern hometown, Bor, and formed the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). His goal was a better financial and political break for the country's south. He later added to that list an end to Islamic law, decreed four months after war began.

Religious and ethnic differences lay behind Sudan's turmoil. Most northern Sudanese are ethnic Arab Muslims. Southerners are largely black African Christians or animists. Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese, almost all southerners, have died in the conflict, mainly from famine caused by the fighting.

International politics and a clan-based split late last year within Col. Garang's rebel movement Omar Hassan Al Bashir's ruling junta an opening.

It began an offensive in February that has retaken Bor and close to a dozen other towns. Its forces were reported last week poised to take Tonk, the rebels' main stronghold 1,250 kilometres south of Khartoum.

Ali Tamim Fartak, a Muslim southerner and a senior official of a transitional parliament picked by the junta, said political and diplomatic regional and international developments bode well for the talks in Abuja, Nigeria.

Dealers give a premium for Iraqi notes issued before the Gulf crisis because they are not confident that all the new ones are genuine.

Iraq said on Saturday its crops were being destroyed by viruses carried in foreign cigarettes. The Iraqi News Agency (INA), quoting a report in Al Qadisiya daily, said a research by Iraqi scientists concluded that all brands of foreign cigarettes on the market carried viruses which affect farm produce, especially tomatoes, potatoes and tobacco.

"The research explains that the viruses are communicated through the hands and clothes of farmers who smoke, or directly while the farmers smoke in their fields," INA said.

"It has been proved that the viruses have affected the tomato crop, especially in greenhouses in the Al Zubayr and Safwan areas in southern Iraq, where the infection rate has amounted to 33 per cent," INA added.

## Iraqi customs foil gold and cash smuggling attempt

BAGHDAD (R) — A man tried to smuggle four kilograms of gold, worth of \$43,000, out of Iraq to Jordan by strapping it to his leg with adhesive tape, the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said on Saturday.

The man, who also had foreign currency hidden in his belt, offered the customs officer a \$15,000 bribe, the officer who caught him told the newspaper.

"But I refused to take the bribe," added the officer, who works at Trebeek.

Iraq normally rewards officers who catch smugglers by giving them more than 50 per cent of the value of the goods seized.

Smugglers convicted in Iraq face 10 to 20 years in prison. Newspapers, publish, almost daily reports of customs officials seizing gold, hard currency, sheep, copper and other precious materials at the border post.

Al Jumhuriyah said one million dinars in old Iraqi notes were confiscated there last week.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Turkey may free Iran-bound arms ship

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey's court of appeal has ruled for the release of an Iran-bound ship seized last October while crossing the Bosphorus with a cargo of arms, legal sources said on Friday. They said the court reversed an Istanbul security court ruling ordering the confiscation of the Cyprus-registered Cape Males. Iran claims the ownership of the cargo and has repeatedly protested at Turkey, asking for the ship's release. The 2,700-tonne freighter's Captain Panourios Dimos was freed on bail after being arrested on charges of smuggling arms into Turkey. A council of courts of appeal will decide on the fate of the ship if, at a hearing expected on June 3, Istanbul's security court uses its right to object to the appeal court's ruling. Cape Males, operated by Good Fate Shipping Company of Piraeus and chartered to the Iranian state shipping line last September, remains at a western Turkish naval base since its seizure seven months ago. Meanwhile, an eight-day protest along the Iranian border by Turkish truck drivers ended on Friday after Turkish and Iranian border officials signed a protocol for the drivers' safety in Iran, Anatolian news agency reported. Turkey's security director Yilmaz Ergun said Turkish drivers had complained of problems with Iranian officials at Gurbulak border gate since the seizure of Cape Males. The drivers, who had formed queues of up to 20 kilometres on the Turkish side, said Iranian customs officers asked for bribes before allowing them to buy petrol.

### Tehran professor sacked for sex talk

NICOSIA (R) — A Tehran University professor has been sacked for preaching pre-marital sex and other "cheap Western" values in his lectures, Iran's IRNA news agency reported on Saturday. The university's Social Science Department fired the part-time professor, identified only as Zarrinkelk, following complaints from students, IRNA said. "He is said to have been ridiculing the Islamic culture and encouraging his students to follow cheap Western cultural values. He has been advocating pre-marital relations between female and male students and cohabitation," IRNA said. Iran observes strict Islamic laws which forbid pre-marital sex, mixed parties and women showing more than their face and hands in public. Iran's biggest selling newspaper, Kayhan, published the case of the professor and called for his dismissal in several articles over the past week. IRNA said department officials sat in on his lectures to verify the student's charges.

### 27 killed in Iran train crash

NICOSIA (R) — Twenty-seven people aboard a passenger train were killed and 25 injured when it collided with a cargo train in western Iran early on Saturday, Tehran Radio said. The passenger train was heading for Abwaz in the oil-rich Khuzestan province from Tehran when it crashed near Dorud, 320 kilometres southwest of Tehran, at 2 p.m. (2130 GMT Friday). Iran's IRNA news agency quoted a state railways statement as saying a commission was studying the cause of the crash. The radio said the Tehran-Abwaz railway was reopened after it was closed for several hours following the incident. The victims were mainly the staff of the passenger train, IRNA said. The injured were rushed to Dorud hospital.

### Morocco suspends trial of editors

RABAT (R) — Legal proceedings against the editors of two left-wing Moroccan dailies have been suspended indefinitely, lawyers said on Friday. "It is a measure of appeasement during an election year," a senior opposition leader told Reuters. Local and national elections are due later this year. "In fact indefinite postponement is a way of abandoning legal proceedings against the press," he added. Lawyers said the trials of the editors of opposition newspapers were suspended after an assurance given by Morocco's King Hassan to opposition party leaders earlier this week. Several hundred lawyers were retained to defend the two editors at trials strongly denounced by the opposition as attacks on freedom of the press.

### Ethiopia says more food aid needed

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia said on Saturday the international community had given an inadequate response to the country's appeals for food to feed an estimated 7.8 million Ethiopians who will face starvation. Ethiopia has appealed for 1.39 million tonnes of food aid, but deliveries have been so low that relief agencies in some areas have already cut rations by half, the government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) said in a statement. In other areas, there was no food at all, the RRC said. So far this year, relief agencies have supplied 135,892 tonnes of food, although pledges totalled 513,073 tonnes. The RRC said the rains expected between March and May had failed in some northern areas. This would seriously reduce local food supplies and as a result millions of people would be almost entirely dependent on food aid, it added.

### Greek, Cypriot leaders meet

ATHENS (AP) — Greece and Cyprus on Friday expressed hope that U.N.-backed negotiations will lead to an agreement with Turkey over the war-divided island of Cyprus. "No one can make any forecasts. There is hope on the horizon," said Greek Premier Constantine Mitsotakis after meeting with Cyprus President George Vassiliou. "We want to express the hope that the Turkish side will see that it is in the interests of all to respond positively and specifically so that we can finally break the logjam and move towards a solution," Mr. Vassiliou said. "It is especially important, for the good of our cause, to make use of the great international interest in the Cyprus issue, and the unprecedented interest of the security council," Mr. Vassiliou said. The council unanimously adopted a resolution in April pressing both parties on Cyprus to cooperate with U.N. efforts to reach a settlement. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's envoys have been shuttling between Cyprus, Turkey and Greece in recent weeks, working on the details of an agreement.

## U.S.-Syria relations improve

WASHINGTON (AP) — Syria, making good on a promise to the United States, has allowed 75 Jews to travel to the United States in the past two weeks, a World Jewish Congress (WJC) official said Friday.

They were allowed to leave without depositing the large sum of money that had been levied in the past to ensure their return, said the official, who insisted on not being named.

In another departure from past practice, Syria allowed several complete families to leave — not just those with close family members in the United States, said the official.

The State Department announced last month that Syria would lift restrictions on travel and property rights against the country's 4,500 Jews. Syria Jews are still banned from travelling to Israel.

Syria has also told the United States that Jews will no longer be required to get permission from the secret police to obtain exit documents, said the official.

"We are cautiously optimistic," he said. The Jews arrived on U.S. tourist visas, and some could seek political asylum or refugee status to enable them to stay.

Until now, Syrian Jews were hardly allowed to leave the country and then only if they left behind family members and a monetary deposit.

The reversal reflected Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's efforts to strengthen relations with the United States. Syria is listed by the U.S. State Department among countries supporting "terrorism," limiting its ability to trade with the United States and to get government-backed loans.

## Rafsanjani: Khomeini's views distorted

NICOSIA (R) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is easing the severity of Islamic revolutionary rule in Iran, said on Saturday the world had too narrow an image of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Hitting back at radicals who accuse him of straying from Ayatollah Khomeini's path, Mr. Rafsanjani said "arrogant propaganda" had given the world the wrong image of the dead leader.

Loyalty to Ayatollah Khomeini's views remains essential in Iran's official politics, with each faction quoting favourite passages from his speeches to back up its own policies.

Mr. Rafsanjani, who champions an image of a moderate Islam capable of answering material and spiritual needs and adapting to the modern world, said Ayatollah's Khomeini's views should be published in full.

"We should not make Imam Khomeini one-dimensional by enforcing our own tastes," he said.

Tehran Radio said Mr. Rafsanjani was addressing officials in charge of publishing Ayatollah Khomeini's works and organising ceremonies next month to mark the third anniversary of his death.

Radicals defeated in parliament elections this month cite Ayatollah Khomeini's call for an Islamic war of "poverty against wealth" to criticise Mr. Rafsanjani's pro-private sector economic policies.

## For Rafsanjani, crunch time after election triumph

By Anwar Faruqi  
The Associated Press

TEHRAN — President Hashemi Rafsanjani's victory over radicals in parliamentary elections clears the way for his more-pragmatic policies. But the pressure is now on him to produce before he comes up for reelection next year.

By winning control of the 270-seat parliament in the April-May polls, Mr. Rafsanjani removed a major roadblock to his reformist economic and foreign policies.

But defeating the hardline fundamentalists also left him dangerously exposed, no longer able to blame for the slow pace of economic reform since he was elected in July 1989. He also raised expectations of better times.

Many knowledgeable Iranians say that Mr. Rafsanjani's reluctance to antago-

nise an electorate increasingly disgruntled after years of turmoil and war was a greater brake on economic reform than the radical's domination of parliament.

The next year will be crucial for both Mr. Rafsanjani and the Islamic republic.

Mr. Rafsanjani is expected to seek reelection in July 1993 when his four-year presidential term expires. He won a landslide victory in 1989, but he is not likely to find it as easy next year.

So a lot is riding on what he can achieve before then. Deregulating Iran's moribund economy and improving conditions for the country's 58 million people, most of whom live below the poverty line, is the core of Mr. Rafsanjani's reconstruction strategy.

To make any impact, unpopular measures will have to be taken — and soon. These include slashing state subsidies on essential commodities. The subsidies are vital for the masses, but drain billions of dollars from the treasury every year.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Streamlining and privatising Iran's outdated industrial sector, which eats up 60 per cent of the budget, would cause widespread unemployment in a country which already has six million jobless, 50 per cent inflation and one of the world's highest birthrates.

Veteran Iran analyst Vahe Petrossian noted that Mr. Rafsanjani's options now "are to stick to the gradualist approach and prolong the agony or to resort to a risky shock therapy."

"The election results may encourage the president to take the latter route," he wrote in the Middle East Economic Digest.

"But he may ultimately decide that the political risks are too great, particularly if concrete benefits cannot be guaranteed before the 1993 presidential vote."

The hardliners may have lost their muscle in the Majlis, Iran's parliament, but they still exert considerable influence in the bureaucracy and control many revolutionary institutions.

Mr. Rafsanjani is also constrained by the revolutionary fervor that still is widespread in Iran, an unpredictable political volcano which he cannot afford to have erupt. This is especially true in Iran's foreign relations.

He has been widely portrayed abroad as a moderate

who seeks accommodation with the West, ultimately with the United States, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's "great Satan," itself.

Mr. Rafsanjani is trying to end Iran's isolation and secure foreign investment and technology to save the revolution from collapse.

But many Iranian officials and intellectuals contend he is unable — and probably unwilling — to challenge the anti-American hostility which is a cornerstone of Ayatollah Khomeini's 1979 Islamic revolution.

Under Mr. Rafsanjani, Iran has maintained support for Lebanon's hostage-grabbing fundamentalist Hizbollah; gained a foothold in Sudan to spread the Islamic revolution; and is rearming heavily as it flexes its muscles once more in the region.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:45 Michael Vailant  
18:30 Des Chiffres et Des Lettres  
18:15 L'écologie des Fans  
19:00 News French  
19:15 Carnet de Notes  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Wings  
21:10 Doc: "Casting for Gold"  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 News in Arabic

### PRAYER TIMES

05:58 Fajr  
05:29 (Sunrise) Duha  
12:32 Dhuhur  
16:13 'Asr  
19:36 Maghrib  
21:07 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634990  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541.  
Argentine Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77261.  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.  
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685226.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

Min. / Max. temp.  
Amman 12 / 23  
Aqaba 20 / 32  
Deserts 10 / 26  
Jordan Valley 16 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds will appear at various altitudes and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, particularly in the northern parts of Jordan. Winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly to moderate and sea calm.

Amman 12 / 23  
Aqaba 20 / 32  
Deserts 10 / 26  
Jordan Valley 16 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'ar ... 791405  
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab ... 602507  
Dr. Mahmoud Amera ... 888883  
Dr. Nidal Al Dabbab ... 693225  
Firas pharmacy ... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ... 637055  
Naironk pharmacy ... 626672  
Al Solan pharmacy ... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945  
Shamekani pharmacy ... 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Abu Bakir ... (—)  
Al Sharaa pharmacy ... 27825

ZARQA:  
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi ... (—)  
Khalid pharmacy ... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ... 630341  
Rescue ... 199  
Rescue Police ... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ... 891228  
Blood Bank ... 775121  
Highway Police ... 843402  
Traffic Police ... 896390  
Public Security Department ... 63021  
Hotel Complaints ... 605800  
Police Complaints ... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ... 661176  
Complaints ... 897467  
Amman Municipality ... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... 121  
Overseas Calls ... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ... 7771013  
Repairs ... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 661101

### HOSPITALS

Jordan Television ... 773111  
Radio Jordan ... 781111  
Water Authority ... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615  
Electric Power Company ... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ... 08-53200

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ... 81381332  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ama ... 6442816  
Akileh Maternity, J. Ama ... 6424412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362  
Mallat, J. Amman ... 6641646  
Palestine Shuqban ... 6641714  
Shuqban Hospital ... 669131  
University Hospital ... 845845  
Al-Mushter Hospital ... 6672279  
The Islamic Hospital ... 66612737  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ... 6641646  
Al-Mulajjem ... 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah ... 77511126  
Army, Marik ... 89161115

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:00 Jeddah (RJ)  
18:30 Aqaba (RJ)  
18:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
17:45 Cairo (RJ)  
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:00 Paris, Geneva (RJ)  
19:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)  
19:30 Athens (RJ)  
19:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
20:20 London, Brussels (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:35 Cairo (MS)  
14:00 Moscow (SU)  
20:25 Larnaca (CY)  
20:35 Beirut (ME)

### DEPARTURES

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Aqaba (RJ)  
11:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:10 Athens (RJ)  
12:40 Larnaca (RJ)  
20:40 Jeddah (RJ)  
21:00 Damascus (RJ)  
21:10 Riyadh (RJ)  
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 New Delhi (RJ)  
23:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)  
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)

### 23:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)  
10:00 Rome (AZ)  
11:25 Cairo (MS)  
16:00 Moscow (SU)  
21:25 Larnaca (CY)



## 'Play it again, Rula'

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For her second piano recital in less than a week, Rula Nabeel, the well-known Jordanian pianist, played for a delighted audience at Al Hassan Bin Talal auditorium on Thursday evening, May 21.

The concert was held under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Fayssal Bin Al Hussein and Princess Abla Al Faisal who both attended the event.

Miss Nabeel selected a pleasant programme with three sonatas by Scarlatti, Mozart and Beethoven, the Rhapsody Op 79 No. 2 by Johannes Brahms, a dance by modern composer Tchaikovsky and the Fantasia Orientale in C minor, written by young Jordanian composer Tareq Younis, that she played for the first time on the occasion of Mozart's memorial in Amman, in December 1991.

Rula Nabeel once again confirmed the artistic qualities that have been known as hers in earlier performance, great musicality, clarity and an obvious understanding of the

pieces she chose to play. If good music is what the ear is pleased to listen to, notwithstanding further technical analysis, then Rula Nabeel is definitely making good music. What is also obvious about Miss Nabeel is her true love and enthusiasm for music which not only shows when she is playing, but also when she introduces each piece with a nice and timely explanation to her audience.

Perhaps the most interesting moments of the recital were the Allegretto of Beethoven's 'Tempest' sonata beautifully rendered by Rula Nabeel, Tareq Younis' Fantasia with its oriental flavour and most of all, Tchaikovsky's dance. This last piece was the most lively of all and it was as much a pleasure to the eye as it was to the ear. Miss Nabeel's hands were actually dancing on the keyboard and the physical patterns they were weaving added one more dimension to the music, something that the composer probably planned.

At the end of the performance, the audience was already looking forward to Rula Nabeel's next recital.

The concert's proceeds are to help the Students Aid Fund of the University of Jordan.



The Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Jordan Saturday organizes a symposium to discuss the future of the pharmacy profession in Jordan

## University holds symposium on pharmacy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium on the future of the pharmacy profession in Jordan was held Saturday at the university of Jordan.

The symposium, which was organized by the university's Faculty of Pharmacy in cooperation with the Jordanian Pharmacists Association, discussed several working papers which dealt with Jordan's present and future needs of pharmacists in the governmental and private sectors.

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh delivered an opening address in which he stressed the need to prepare qualified pharmacists "who are equipped with the spirit of research, scientific experimentation and pharmaceutical-industrial thought." He said that pharmacy faculties and colleges should emphasise these main principles

to their students.

Mr. Gharaibeh pointed out that the duty of faculties of pharmacy should not be only teaching their students the latest scientific findings by laboratories and industrial firms, but should also encourage students to become creative.

The university president affirmed that the latest scientific discoveries are not exclusive to a certain nation. "The adoption of a team work strategy in medical education effectively contributes to forming a comprehensive image which enhances the idea that health problems should be viewed from various dimensions and angles," he said.

Dean of the Nursing Faculty Fatima Affi also delivered an address in which she reviewed the history of the faculty and its role in educational fields, scientific

research and cooperation with the concerned authorities.

Dr. Affi said that this symposium was organized as part of the faculty's role in enhancing scientific research and preparing the suitable atmosphere for researchers to excel in their fields of knowledge.

The faculty's Scientific Research Committee member Basam Omar also delivered an address which outlined the faculty's role in supporting pharmacists in Jordan, whether in terms of turning out qualified employees or through providing research on pharmaceutical industries.

At the end of the symposium, several specialists from the private and public sectors participated in an open dialogue on the future of the pharmacy profession in Jordan.

## Council of labour union federation to elect leaders

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Council of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) is holding a meeting next Saturday to elect a new leadership for the labour federation comprising 15 members, plus the chairman.

A federation official said that the council will then elect the federation's secretary-general. According to the officials, federation elections are held in Jordan every two years and the total number of the Central Council members who convene to elect the leadership is 97, representing 17 labour unions in the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, everything was set Saturday for today's elections by

the Jordanian unions of land transport, mechanic workers and drivers in various governorates.

According to Mazen Maaitah, FJLU deputy secretary-general, a total of 307 candidates are competing for 77 seats in the federation's General Assembly.

He said that 69 candidates are running for the Amman area, 100 for Irbid, 70 for Zarqa, 20 for Maan, 15 for Aqaba, 23 for Karak and nine for Mafraq.

He also said that the total number of the federation's General Assembly members is nearly 120,000, and it is the largest labour union in Jordan, accounting for half the total number of all labour union members

in the country. Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said that in view of the large number of the candidates and voters, the supervising committee has requested the Ministry of Interior to provide security to ensure safe and free voting, success for the voting process and sound practice of democracy.

Mr. Kabariti said that a joint supervisory committee for these elections comprises heads of various labour unions as well as the Labour Ministry, noting that elections will be held in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Karak, Maan, Aqaba and Mafraq.

## Shipping association to introduce amendments entitling Jordanians only to be owners

AMMAN — The Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA) has decided at its recent General Assembly meeting to introduce amendments to its statutes stipulating that Jordanians only are entitled to be owners or managers of shipping lines in the country.

The assembly, which met on May 20 to take this as well as other decisions, said that maritime shipping was important for the national economy and Jordanians must be at the helm of any shipping companies which are normally backed in their operations by local banks, importers, exporters and the port of Aqaba.

The General Assembly decided to re-elect the present seven-member board whose chairman is Tawfiq Kassar and discussed a number of topics of concern to the association.

Mr. Kassar noted in a statement on Jordan Television last week that the easing of harassment by allied navies of international shipping operating in the Gulf of Aqaba was bound to help the return of most of the international shipping lines to the port city.

The easing of harassment of Jordan-bound cargo was discussed by Mr. Kassar at a meeting earlier by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). A May 4 meeting in Aqaba, involving delegations representing the multinational maritime interception force, was positive in sorting out procedural issues related to maritime cargo bound for Jordan, Mr. Kassar told the ICC meeting

in Marakkeh, Morocco.

Shipments addressed to consignees in Iraq are permitted to enter Aqaba as long as they are accompanied by a certificate from the U.N. Sanctions Committee in line with Article 20 of Security Council Resolution 687 which exempts food and medicine from the embargo order on Iraq.

Association sources said that at present, Aqaba port is served by 20 out of 41 shipping lines that were operational before the Gulf crisis. According to the association, the more lines operating, the more the chance will be for Jordanian importers and exporters to benefit from shipping services as competition among the shipping agencies tends to reduce charges on shipping services.

## Ministry receives good turnout of foreign workers applying for permits in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Foreign Workers Office in Amman and the other offices around the Kingdom are witnessing a large turnout of foreign workers who are calling at these offices to get work permits before the end of the Ministry of Labour's June 6 deadline set for them applying to obtain such permits.

Despite the long queues of foreign workers at these offices, the workers complete the required forms in less than one day.

Those calling at these offices to fill the required forms and obtain work permits commended the speed of work at these offices, despite their complaint about the long time they have to wait for their papers, which can take up to four hours.

Director of the Amman office Ali Bani Hani attributed this large turnout to the fact that foreign workers in Jordan used to work without the need to obtain permits. But, he added, following

the ministry's decision on the need for them to obtain work permits, they rushed to the foreign workers offices to avoid any legal actions against them.

He said that the number of those calling at these offices has risen to 500 per cent in one week. In spite of that, he affirmed, all office-related procedures are finished within a day's work.

In response to complaints that some foreign workers' application forms are delayed at the office, he said that the reason for this is that those workers do not enclose all the needed papers to the form.

Mr. Bani Hani lauded the positive response of Jordanian employers and foreign workers to the ministry's instructions which aim to organise the local labour market.

Most of those calling at the foreign workers offices are those who work in non-competitive

professions, he said. Ministry of Labour secretary-general Saleh Tarawneh said that this recent decision by the ministry aims to organise the labour market through defining the number of Jordanian job-seekers and foreign workers working in the industrial, agricultural and services sectors.

In answering a question on the number of foreign workers in Jordan, Mr. Tarawneh said that no exact figures are available at the ministry because the bulk of foreign workers in Jordan are Egyptians and Syrians who are not required to get visas or residence permits.

The ministry sources said about 10,000 foreign workers have so far applied for work permits. They expected that in the coming few days, as the deadline approaches, the number of foreign workers calling at the offices will increase significantly.



COMCENT ORGANISES EXHIBITION — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz Tuesday opened the special computer exhibition organised by Comcent Trading and Contracting Company to mark the company's 20th anniversary. The company's board chairman, Mohammad Asfour, delivered an address at the outset of the celebration outlining the establishment and development of Comcent Trading and Contracting Company over the past two decades and its contribution to the use of computers in the Kingdom. The company has been coping with the latest developments in the world of computers and introducing the new trends to the Jordanian market. The company has also been providing services like training personnel, programme, consultancy and maintenance. Comcent, which was established in 1972, represents a wide range of international computer firms from the United States, Britain, Japan, Denmark and Taiwan. Comcent's services are of benefit to the Jordanian private and public sectors, embassies in the Kingdom and international organisations.



UNIVERSITY OBSERVES INDEPENDENCE DAY — In observance of the Kingdom's Independence and Army Day, an exhibition of plastic art, Arabic calligraphy and artificial flowers was opened Saturday at the University of Jordan. The exhibition, which was opened by University President Fawzi Gharaibeh, marks the start of the university's activities celebrating the occasion. These activities will include cultural and sports events.



SCHOOL VISITS HOTEL — Al Ahlia Girls School (CMS) kindergarten paid a visit to Amman Plaza Hotel as part of a field trip. They were given a tour of the hotel's various facilities and enjoyed a party afterwards at the coffee shop.

## Emirates Airlines to resume Amman flights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Emirates Airlines is due to resume its flights to Amman on June 5, 1992 after a break that lasted for more than a year, according to an announcement here Saturday.

The announcement was made by Ahmad Jweiber, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) who said that the Emirates Airlines will be making two weekly flights to Amman.

Until the Gulf crisis, the Emirates Airlines had maintained strong relations with Jordan, reflecting those of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) which signed the Air Transport Agreement with Jordan in 1973. Mr. Jweiber noted. He said that the Emirates Airlines suspended its flights to

Amman from various destinations, including those of the United Arab Emirates in January 1991 because of the Gulf crisis.

According to Mr. Jweiber, among Arab and foreign airlines, that had suspended their flights to Jordan since the Gulf crisis, only KLM, Lufthansa and Swiss Air have not yet announced plans to resume them. He said that these airlines were currently conducting studies on the prospect of resuming flights to Amman.

Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, this month resumed direct flights to Athens and announced plans to inaugurate a second German destination in addition to Frankfurt. Officials said that as of June 3, RJ planes

will fly to Berlin.

The RJ announcement said that Jakarta will be the fourth Far Eastern destination to be added to RJ's route network on June 18.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jweiber said that he would leave for Paris today at the head of a CAA delegation for talks with French aviation officials on topics related to promoting air transport operations between Jordan and France. He said he will visit French airport facilities, including those at Charles de Gaulle Airport.

Mr. Jweiber is accompanied on the visit by the director of CAA's Airports Engineering Department.

## Seville expo features Jordan's heritage

SEVILLE — Jordanian cultural heritage will be featured in week-long activities due to open Sunday at the Seville Universal Exposition which opened its doors last month and an official Jordanian delegation left Amman for Spain to attend the opening ceremonies.

The Jordanians pavilion exhibits artefacts, pictures and archaeological pieces from most historical periods and civilisations that have left their imprint in the country, tracing man's beginning

and progress. According to the organising committee, the pavilion exhibits in particular artefacts from the Umayyad period during which the Islamic rule in Spain came into being.

The delegation comprises Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat and Director of the Department of Antiquities Safwan Al Tall. Mr. Hikmat told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, before his departure that activities include informational and cultural per-

formances and exhibits that reflect Jordan's past and present images. The pavilion has a wing displaying various items excavated in Jordan, said the minister.

The organising committee said various aspects of the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, like the Siq and the Treasury.

The six-month exposition displays cultural items, artefacts and artistic materials from 110 countries.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Luweibeh.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Al Tawilayya at the Orthodox Club.
- ★ Exhibition of embroidery and hand-made items at the Philadelphia Hotel lobby — (8 a.m. - 11 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafe' Nasiri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

### FILMS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salhan at Alfa Art Gallery — opening ceremony at 6 p.m.
- ★ Arabic-subtitled Chinese film entitled "In the Wild Mountains" at the Scientific Cultural Centre of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 8 p.m.
- ★ EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL
- ★ Dutch film entitled "Eline Vere" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Princess distributes diplomas

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Taghreed Saturday attended the graduation ceremony of the first batch of secondary stage students at the Arab model schools. Princess Taghreed distributed diplomas to the graduating students.

### Yugoslav Embassy to close down

AMMAN (R) — The Yugoslav Embassy in Jordan will close down at the end of the month and Belgrade's ambassador to neighbouring Syria will cover the Kingdom, a Yugoslav Embassy official said on Saturday. The embassy had written a letter to the Foreign Ministry three months ago saying the decision was taken because of dire financial difficulties, the official said. The embassy's last working day will be May 31.

### Festival to celebrate independence

AMMAN (Petra) — In observance of the Kingdom's Independence Day, the Jordanian Writers Association and the Arab Youth Forum are organising Monday a national festival at the JWA premises. The celebration will include addresses, poetry recitals, national songs and dances.

### Bulgarian delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-member Bulgarian parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Saturday on a several-day visit to Jordan. The delegation will meet with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament and several government officials for talks on ways of promoting parliamentary and economic cooperation between Jordan and Bulgaria.

### Jordanian-Libyan cooperation discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi discussed Monday with a delegation representing the Libyan Awqaf General Committee ways of enhancing Jordanian-Libyan cooperation in terms of awqaf legislations and exchanging expertise. The visiting Libyan delegation is headed by Director

General of the committee Abdul Hameed Beeran and includes as a member a representative of the International Islamic Da'wa Society.

### Minister opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Saturday opened a general art exhibition organised by a team of artists from the ministry-affiliated art centre in Irbid. On display at the week-long exhibition are 2,000 books, 50 different works of art ranging from oil paintings to water colours depicting the Jordanian environment as well as artificial flowers and other handicrafts. The exhibition is being held at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### UNRWA inaugurates unit

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry Adel Irshaid and Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) recently inaugurated the Women's Programme Centre and the Service Unit at Aqaba. The unit, the first of its kind in the southern region of Jordan, will provide basic services to the Palestinian refugees and organise income-generating training courses for the refugee community living there. A total of 15,000 Palestinian refugees are living in Aqaba.

### Organisation prepares relief for Somalia

AMMAN (Petra) — The Hashemite Islamic Charitable Organisation Secretary-General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi said the organisation has prepared an emergency relief programme for Somalia. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Abbadi said that the organisation was prompted to launch this relief campaign by the spread of diseases and starvation among the Somali people, particularly women and children.

### Coffee prices to be reduced

AMMAN (Petra) — Supply Minister Mohammad Saqqaf Tuesday decided to reduce prices of ground coffee by 120 fils per kilogramme. Under the decision, a kilogramme of roasted ground coffee will be sold for 1,880 fils, down from 2,000 fils. A kilogramme of semi-roasted ground coffee will be sold for 1,880 fils, while a kilogramme of semi-black, ground coffee will be sold for 2,000 fils.



## Jordan Times

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### Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

## Towards a social market economy

Should the Jordanian economy be run on the basis of free interaction of supply and demand forces in the market place or on the basis of the central command of the government in order to accomplish predetermined targets? Should the economy be growth-oriented, aiming at a higher volume of gross domestic product, or justice-oriented and managed in a way to maximise equity in the distribution of income?

Only on paper and for purely scientific analysis do these strict options exist in this contradictory fashion. They do not exist in reality in any country in the world. The variation between one country and another lies in the extent to which one factor is given more priority over another.

America, for instance, is one of the most prominent countries that gave utmost priority to market forces over all economic activity. However, this position by no means precluded the American government from intervention in the economic life. Not in fixing of prices, dictating quantities of commodities produced or consumed, licensing what can be imported or exported, determining interest rates, salaries and wages, rents or ratios of profits that can be declared as dividends, but through

positive, and negative, incentives such as taxes and indirectly influencing the scale of interest rates, pumping or sucking liquidity through open market operations, increasing or decreasing the volume of public expenditure and financial deficit but, over the above, enacting and enforcing laws that prevent monopoly or malpractices and regulate economic activities.

In Sweden, for example, we find a social economy directed basically towards the benefit of the masses, especially middle class, through expanding social security programmes, insurance against unemployment and old age, free medical and educational services, etc. The average citizen in Sweden pays around 60 per cent of his or her income to the government to be spent publicly in the form of services and assurances for all. However, the social economy practised in Sweden does not exclude Sweden from the family of capitalist countries with a sort of market economy. The markets operate regularly, giving the necessary signals needed to direct the government and businessmen alike to the areas and activities that serve the best interests of the people.

The American market economy succeeded in achieving its

objectives. It became, by far, largest economy in the world producing around one quarter of the global economic output. The Swedish economy remained small and rather slow, but it achieved a higher degree of social security and internal stability. Sweden did not experience the ugly social disturbances that are familiar in America, as happened recently in Los Angeles, and as may recur elsewhere in American cities due to the relative deprivation of large groups in the American society.

In Jordan, we recently started to discover the virtues of market economics which spurs success and growth, but does not guarantee social peace unless we maintain a measure of attention to social considerations.

The Jordanian economy can be doomed and bankrupted if managed solely on social basis, the population may become equal but in poverty. However, it may become a jungle if we neglect the social aspects in running the economy.

Hence comes the meaningful slogan: "Towards a social market economy" which should be the main feature of our developing economy: to achieve growth without sacrificing justice.

## Choking the cause

ISRAEL, the PLO factions and Hamas are all responsible for the continued killing of the so-called collaborators in the occupied Arab territories. Israel, the occupying power, carries the prime responsibility.

It continues to deny Palestinians their national rights pushing more and more of them, especially the young, into despair. It uses whatever powers it has to coerce, force or seduce Palestinians to work against their own people, thus exposing them to reprisals from fellow Palestinians. Recruiting Palestinians and thus having other Palestinians murder them serves the Israeli occupiers very well. It slowly and gradually turns Palestinians against each other and divides their ranks in the face of occupation.

Palestinians, especially the PLO, its factions and Hamas bear most of the blame however. For one thing, they should realise that no one collaborates against his own people unless the utmost of his weaknesses is exploited by the enemy. Second, they should establish that no matter what evidence they have against a fellow Palestinian they must not pass a sentence on him except through a court of law. Such court would of course be very difficult to form under occupation. But the Unified Command of the Intifada should think of alternatives to such a court. Third, Palestinians should not murder fellow Palestinians because they think differently, deal with the Israelis or belong to another faction. And last, but certainly not least, Palestinians fighting for their freedom and needing to win all the support their cause deserves should shun capital punishment no matter what warrants it.

It is not enough for Palestinian leaders both in and outside Palestine to condemn the fratricide of their own people from time to time. A persistent effort on behalf of the different levels of Palestinian leadership coupled with a media campaign should be launched and continued until such frantic attitude is completely erased from the minds and the hearts of the people. As PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi stressed this week this continued internecine violence will in no way benefit the Palestinian cause and will only contribute to damaging the gains of Palestinian struggle and the intifada. It should be enough at this stage to identify suspected collaborators and isolate them thus obviating the need for the unnecessary loss of life and terrorising of the Palestinian population.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE RECENT acts of aggression committed by Israel against the southern regions of Lebanon and those in the Gaza Strip represent state-backed organised terrorism which has been escalating day by day, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The aggression is being waged at a time when the peace process is being continued in various parts of the world and in total disregard of the world community which expects a relaxation of tension instead of more violence in the region, the paper said. The passive stand adopted by Washington and the West in general vis-a-vis Israel's acts of terrorism and aggression inside and outside the occupied territories is no less dangerous than the Israeli atrocities themselves, the paper said. It said that condoning such actions and violations of international law is a clear sign of encouragement of the aggressors to pursue their evil practices. Fighting terrorism should not be selective and the West is required to adopt a firm stand with regard to the Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians and against Israel's continued occupation of Arab land, the paper demanded. It said that the time has come to combat terrorism in all its forms, with courage and with total neutrality, noting that aggression on the civilian population of southern Lebanon is considered an act of terrorism by any standard and continued occupation of Palestinian land is considered as a continued aggression that must be stopped by all means.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour expects continued pressure on Syria from the United States and Israel to clear the southern regions of Lebanon of Hizbollah fighters and to prevent Lebanon's resistance forces from launching attacks on Israeli troops occupying southern Lebanon. Munes Al Razzaz said that Syria is being openly threatened by Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister who accused the Syrians of backing the strike groups in South Lebanon. At the same time, the U.S. administration is threatening to take action against Sudan, placing the country on the same level with Libya, on a list of undesired regimes, the writer said. He said that the Israelis would not have dared threaten Syria openly had Iraq's power remained intact, and the U.S. could not have made threatening moves against Sudan had the Arab countries been united in their confrontation of the common enemy. It seems that both the Americans and the Israelis are bent on dealing with the Arab World one by one until all Arab states have succumbed to the desires of the White House, like other countries of the Third World, said the writer. He said that the coming days will witness further threats coming out of Israel against Syria.

By Stephen Sestanovich

WASHINGTON — Mikhail Gorbachev, it used to be said, plays a weak hand brilliantly, and this talent was never more in evidence than during his just concluded two-week tour of the United States. Mr. Gorbachev is out of office, on a meager pension and is hounded back home by charges about his role in this or that abuse of power. Yet he got Americans to treat him like a head of state, promise him millions, and confine the conversation to such tame questions as who started the cold war (no one was going to blame him after all), how to reorganise the United Nations, and how to deal with global environmental pollution.

The man at the centre of the most important political revolution of our time came and went without providing a single new revelation, not one sharp insight or telling detail, about what happened.

For Russians, this result will come as no surprise. Radio Moscow recently expressed doubt that Mr. Gorbachev had anything "new, practical, interesting or unexpected" to say to foreign listeners. His ability to grow rich while saying nothing will be especially galling to those former Soviet officials, high and low, who — whether as consultants to Western corporations or as participants in oral history projects — are trying to sell what little they know about the system for a few measly dollars. Even Pravda, now the voice of reaction, grumbled that when he gets home Mr. Gorbachev ought to tell his own people the truth about such episodes as the crackdown in the



Mikhail Gorbachev

Baltic states in January 1991.

### A thin account

Mr. Gorbachev sometimes avoids pointed questions by saying that he has to save his best material for his memoirs, now nearly finished. He said the same thing last fall while preparing his book, "The August Coup," and it is worth remembering how thin and insubstantial a recounting that turned out to be. American publishers seem to remember: they have reportedly balked at the sums Mr. Gorbachev is asking, realising that for all that he has said and written in the past ("master of the 40-minute sound bite," someone once said), he has left us with a long list of questions about perestroika and only the most fragmentary answers.

A publisher who wants the real story of how reform became a revolution probably needs to be-

gin with just such a list of questions, pressing the last leader of Soviet Communism to do what he has never done: detail his relationship with party conservatives, how he manoeuvred around them when he could, mollified them when he had to and joined them when it served his interest.

The question that led Pravda's list would be as good a place as any to start. How did last year's crackdown in the Baltic states come about? It is possible that Mr. Gorbachev simply wanted to restrain the Lithuanian and Latvian separatist movements a little, had no idea that local commanders would conduct the operation in such a brutal manner and pulled back when he saw bloodshed. Possible. Yet some hardline supporters of the crackdown subsequently asserted that Mr. Gorbachev had actually promised them he would suspend the Baltic parliaments and impose "presidential rule."

What did he tell them — and what did he plan to do next? Russian democrats insist that the crackdown was meant to be the first step towards closing down their own newly elected governments as well. This is hardly wild speculation; once the Baltic offensive failed, Mr. Gorbachev started up a campaign to impeach Boris Yeltsin as chairman of the Russian parliament.

Here again, it is conceivable that the drive against Mr. Yeltsin was authored by hardliners in the Russian Communist Party. Yet one former member of the party's politburo recently denied this, saying Mr. Gorbachev himself kept badgering them to seek Mr. Yeltsin's impeachment. Had this

effort succeeded, the effect on future events would have been incalculable. The conservative old guard might not have had to launch a coup against Mr. Gorbachev in August. He would already have become their prisoner.

To push Mr. Gorbachev to be candid is not, of course to focus exclusively on the shameful episodes of perestroika. We also know too little about his finer moments, like the East European revolutions of late 1989, which earlier Soviet leaders would obviously have tried to crush. Was there a debate within the leadership about how to deal with the sudden collapse of their "fraternal" allies, or not? The usual Kremlinological tea-leaf reading suggests that there wasn't, and Yegor Ligachev, at the time the leading conservative critic of perestroika, has said there was no interventionist faction pushing Mr. Gorbachev to do the wrong thing.

Is Mr. Ligachev telling the truth? And, if he is, what explains the hardliners' moderation? Were they restrained because they could not stomach a blood bath, or because Mr. Gorbachev, who had by 1989 abolished regular politburo meetings, managed to keep the issue from being discussed? Or was it that he managed to reassure those who were unhappy with where things were heading — perhaps promising the military that he would never pull Soviet forces out of Germany? Answers to the questions can help us understand what we now only guess at: the finality with which the Soviet establishment accepted the loss of empire.

The collapse of Soviet control in Eastern Europe was followed almost immediately by a collapse on the home front. In February 1990 the leadership of the Communist Party agreed, at Mr. Gorbachev's suggestion, to surrender its constitutional guarantee of a monopoly on political power. Conservatives first made a furious show of opposing this idea at a special Central Committee meeting. Then, with only a handful of "no's" and abstentions, they meekly voted to accept a multi-party system.

How did Mr. Gorbachev pull this off? Can such an astounding result really be explained by the party tradition of deferring to the leader — that is, by Stalinist means in the service of anti-Stalinist ends? Or did Mr. Gorbachev persuade conservatives to go along with his plan by promising them that he would not implement the new law? (And in fact, he did not.)

Neutralising potential opposition from the military was as important as any other part of Mr. Gorbachev's effort to move conservatives to accept reform. His "new thinking" was an attempt to demilitarise Soviet foreign policy, and both the political and economic reforms he embraced were clearly intended to undermine the power of the entire military-industrial complex. But results were another matter. In the late summer of 1990, when he seemed on the verge of accepting the controversial "500 days" economic reform plan, the loudest objections were from the defence industry. When he left office at the end of 1991 the debilitating drain of resources

into military spending had barely been slowed.

The failure to make a sustained and effective attack on military spending is especially puzzling, because few things that Mr. Gorbachev could have done would have so greatly improved his chances of success. What happened? Did he fail to understand how important the problem was, understand but not know what to do, fight but fail to get his way, or choose not to fight at all, because the generals — and the "generals" of industry — were just too powerful to take on? An honest account of this matter would not only explain the balance of political power in the system over which Mr. Gorbachev presided. It would tell us much about institutions that are still part of the system over which Mr. Yeltsin presides.

What would move Mr. Gorbachev to tell the story of perestroika as only he knows it? For the kind of book described here, publishers would surely be willing to pay far more than they would for bombast and evasions, which they may expect of him. Yet in the end, money may not be enough of a lever. (His recent fund-raising success has seen to that.) Before he writes memoirs worthy of his amazing career, Mr. Gorbachev will have to make a larger choice: He has to abandon hope of a political comeback and rest his claim to greatness on what he has already accomplished. The final chapter of the book he is writing suggests that he has chosen differently. Its title (which he divulges with a grain): "Everything Is Still Ahead" — The New York Times.

## Curtailing irrigated agriculture

By Ali Z. Ghezawi

Recently, as a result of the severe water shortages in this region, many water experts and planners have started to promote the idea of curtailing irrigated agriculture.

By doing this, they believe that the amount saved will compensate and alleviate the water shortages. Two factors exert pressure on water demand, namely population growth and economic development.

Between 1948-1991 Jordan absorbed three waves of refugees who increased the demand on the country's limited resources including water. The Kingdom adopted several development plans in order to utilise its limited resources efficiently and meet its people's needs. So far, these plans achieved a remarkable progress, but regional crisis imposed constraints and limitations.

In Jordan, like in many developing countries, the agricultural sector constitutes a vital source of income and employment. Jordan's climate is arid and semi-arid and only 8 per cent of the Kingdom can be considered potential agricultural land. Furthermore, approximately 7 per cent of the cultivated land is irrigated, producing about the same quantity of the total cultivated land.

Certain vital crops in climates such as the one prevailing in Jordan cannot be sustained without irrigation water. For comparison purposes, Jordan, Syria, the occupied territories and Israel, with almost the same climatic conditions have an agricultural sector water consumption estimated at 70 per cent and 90 per cent respectively. This indicates that

the Kingdom's irrigation is within the region average.

Jordan imports more than 60 per cent of the food it consumes and this figure is expected to increase as a result of the natural population growth, in addition to the unexpected 300,000 people who have been forced to leave the Gulf states. The food imports in 1990 amounted to JD 405 million or 23.4 per cent of the country's total imports. This figure equals to 11.5 per cent of Jordan's GDP.

Furthermore, the Kingdom's irrigated crops are generally not big water consumers. Jordanian farmers being aware of the water shortage, due mainly to the fluctuation of rain, and because of financial constraints, started to adopt new irrigation techniques, such as drip and sprinklers, and abandoning the surface irrigation. Farmers who adopted this technique already witnessed a significant increase in their farm yield.

To conclude, from the economic and social points of view, Jordan cannot curtail its irrigated agriculture. The cost the Kingdom would bear by reducing the irrigated agriculture by even a small percentage would be high, economically and socially, bearing in mind the present economic situation, the imported food bill, unemployment, people's diet and changes in the population's standard of living.

Jordan's right to share the Jordan River waters and the building of the dams with neighbouring countries should be emphasised as major steps to solve the water shortages.

## Bush and Clinton lack strategy against Perot

By Irwin Arief

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Billionaire businessman Ross Perot has scrambled presidential politics so thoroughly that this year's campaign could be the wildest the United States has seen in a long time, analysts said.

A national poll released last weekend showed Mr. Perot, a likely independent presidential candidate, leading both Republican President George Bush and Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, the expected Democratic nominee for the November election.

The Time magazine-Cable News Network poll of 917 registered voters found that 33 per cent backed Mr. Perot, 28 per cent supported Mr. Bush and 24 per cent favoured Mr. Clinton. It marked the first time in memory that an independent has run first in a nationwide presidential preference poll.

Mr. Perot, a 61-year-old computer industry tycoon known as a man of action, has ridden a surge of voter discontent with familiar candidates. The Time-CNN poll rated him the best hope for reforming government, reducing federal deficits and improving the economy.

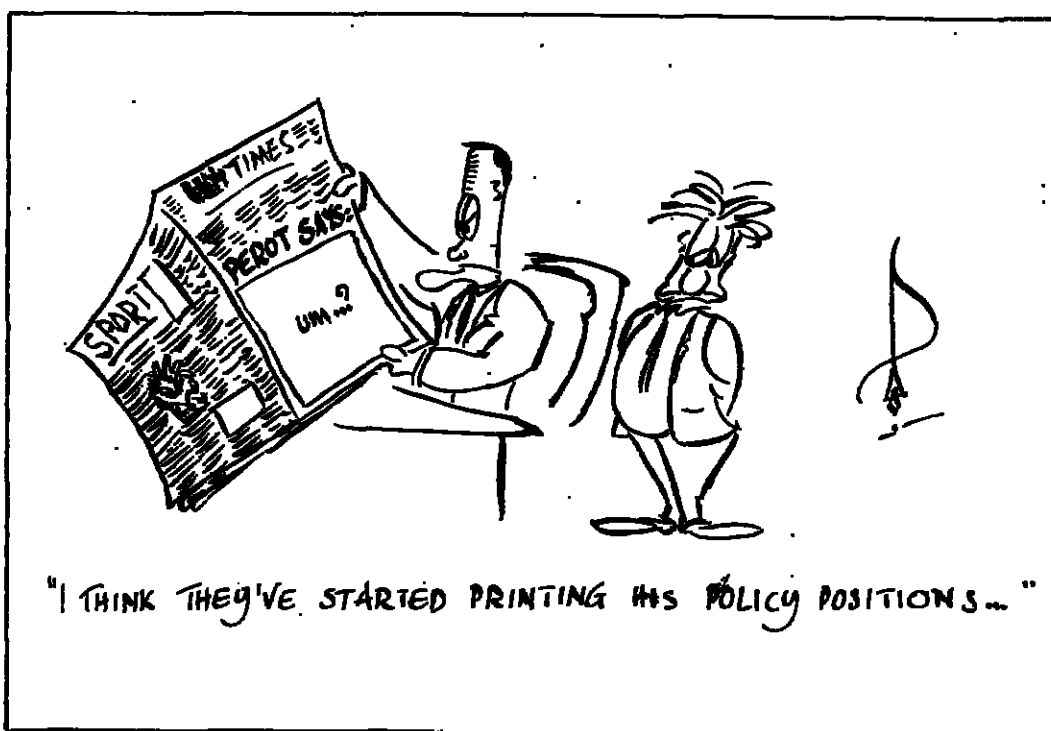
### NEWS ANALYSIS

As Republican Party Chairman Rich Bond said last week, Mr. Perot has transformed the 1992 campaign into "probably the weirdest presidential campaign that we have seen in a long time."

"All bets should be off for the general election," said Democratic strategist Tad Devine in an analysis in the polling report newsletter.

Part of the Perot threat comes from the way the U.S. constitution is set up.

Presidents are not elected by popular vote, but by the electoral college. Each state has a number of votes in the electoral college



equal to its number of senators and representatives in Congress.

The presidential candidate who gains a majority of votes in a state takes all its electoral votes. The system makes larger states — such as Mr. Bush and Mr. Perot's Texas, New York, California and Florida — keys to winning the election.

Analysts have speculated that Mr. Perot, who has said he could spend up to \$100 million of his own money on the presidency, could take enough states to deny Mr. Clinton or Mr. Bush a majority of the electoral votes.

"People just hate politics right now. The less Perot does, the higher he goes in the polls," Mr. Clinton said in Little Rock at the weekend.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton are encouraging the media to go for Mr. Perot's jugular in hopes of softening him up before they

soon go away. Mr. Bush says he does not even want to talk about Mr. Perot until the general election campaign begins this autumn.

"If Ross Perot decides to run, then Ross Perot will have to do what everybody else does: Get the issues out there (and) talk about it," Mr. Bush told the Dallas Morning News over the weekend in a rare comment on his fellow Texan.

Mr. Clinton does reluctantly discuss Perot from time to time, but only to predict that his star will fade.

"We are now winning states that Republicans normally don't win," including Iowa, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Wisconsin, Mr. Bond said.

"Opportunities blossom like spring-time flowers because of a three-way race," Mr. Bond concluded.

have to enter the ring with him. Both want the media to lay out his past, pin down his positions on the key issues and expose his flaws — goals they are reluctant to pursue to avoid appearing on the defensive.

Mr. Bond, the Republican chairman, said that while Mr. Perot was running ahead of Mr. Bush in polls in the crucial states of California and Texas, the president was leading in some traditionally Democratic states where Mr. Perot apparently was pulling votes away from Mr. Clinton.



## Environment strategy unveiled.

(Continued from page 1)

USAID, according to ministry officials, contributed \$400,000 to the project.

Dr. Tabeishat said the document was prepared through a steering committee and 10 other branch committees specialising in underground and surface water, agriculture and land, sea wealth, human habitat, the atmosphere and quality of the air, minerals and energy, archaeological sites and culture, laws and regulations, and information and public awareness.

As soon as the document has been ratified by a Royal decree, he said, the ministry intends to embark on procedures for its implementation. The USAID has provided a specialist to help the ministry carry out the project working in coordination with the Jordanian committees.

Addressing Saturday's conference, was also Ahmad Obaidat, president of the Jordan Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP). With the in-

roduction of the national strategy Jordan will be embarking on organised work at all levels to provide protection for the environment, he said.

The idea of protecting the environment is gaining public support, especially as it was supported by the government working under Royal directives, Mr. Obaidat noted.

The announcement of the national strategy, he added, reflects the Kingdom's respect of humans and human dignity and its determination to provide measures enabling the country to confront environmental challenges now and in the future.

Present at the ceremony were the speakers of both houses of Parliament, the chief of the Royal Court and several Parliament members and heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan.

During the ceremony those who were involved in drawing up the national strategy on the environment were presented with awards in recognition of their efforts.

## Artillery duels continue in S. Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

it has 40,000 troops, to contain the guerrillas under its influence. If Syria did not neutralise them, Mr. Levy said, then Syria itself was liable to get hurt.

Syria controls the Bekaa Valley and has checkpoints on most roads in central Lebanon leading to Hizbollah's southern bases near the 15-kilometre-deep border strip held by Israel and the SLA.

## Kurdish elections go to run-off

(Continued from page 1)

have followed clan ties and have had no experience of democracy. The two leaders announced late Thursday at the end of a Kurdistan Front meeting that they would work for unity.

"Our appearance here together shows that we are prepared to override our interests for the sake of the Kurdish people," said Mr. Barzani at a joint news conference with Mr. Talabani.

The newspaper of the Iraqi

defence Ministry called Saturday for the execution of the two Kurdish leaders.

Al Qadissiyah described Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani as "spies who are implementing an American scheme to turn Iraq into an entity similar to Yugoslavia, vulnerable to division and fragmentation."

"We demand the heads of those spies through a sentence to be issued in the name of the people, martyrs and aggrieved families," it said in an editorial.

## Suchinda said seeking exile

(Continued from page 1)

pakdi — Mr. Suchinda's brother-in-law.

The Confederation for Democracy is also demanding the resignation of Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Kasat Rajanani and Gen. Issarapong Noonpakdi. It says they are equally guilty for the massacre. An official of one of the parties in the pro-military coalition said Mr. Suchinda told party leaders of Friday he was resigning and save them a free hand to pick a new prime minister.

Sources said the army, keen to

prevent further damage to its reputation, was adamant Mr. Suchinda quit before the session starts on Monday.

Mr. Surin told Reuters on Saturday Mr. Suchinda had contacted Sweden to ask for asylum. Bertil Roth, charge d'affaires at the Swedish embassy in Bangkok, said he knew nothing about any plans Mr. Suchinda might have. He said there had been no approach to the embassy.

Many other rumours flew around the city on Saturday, with France and Taiwan also mentioned as possible destinations.

## Mongolians make first Haj in 66 years

ULAN BATOR (R) — A group of 17 Mongolian Muslims will leave the capital on Sunday for the country's first officially-approved pilgrimage to Mecca in 66 years. The pilgrims include 16 mullahs, all aged between 66 and 86 years old. They are all members of Mongolia's Kazakh ethnic minority. Kazakhs, virtually all of whom are Muslim, number about 130,000 people, or about six per cent of Mongolia's population. Most live in the westernmost province Bayan Olgyi. Tibetan-style Buddhism is the predominant religion in Mongolia. Religion was suppressed in Mongolia during almost seven decades of communist rule until the Communist Party renounced its sole monopoly on power in 1990. The harshest purges of Islam came in 1938 under dictator Horlogiin Choibalsan. "All our mosques were destroyed," said group leader Kadar Salraan. He said 3,500 mullahs were killed and holy books burnt. The mullahs making the pilgrimage were among the few to survive Choibalsan's persecution, he said. Islam is reviving in Mongolia, and foreign assistance is playing an important role in the renaissance. The pilgrimage is being sponsored by the Saudi Ministry of Haj and the Muslim World League.

## Film festival introduces Jordanian public to 'the rich European culture'

By Maha Addasi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As part of the fourth European Festival of Films, the Greek film "To Rembetiko" was shown at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Wednesday. It depicts a Greek atmosphere that could not have been introduced to the Jordanian public except through such a movie, and this is exactly the purpose of such festivals, according to C.D. Falkowski, the head of the delegation organising the festival.

"The exposure of the rich European cultural texture, through the films presented in the festival to the Jordanian audi-

ence, contributes to foster the understanding of people," Mr. Falkowski wrote in the introduction of the film festival programme.

"Relationships between Europe and the Arab World should grow in a climate of tolerance and support, not only in the economical and political sphere but also in the area of human dimension. And there is no better way to understand the human aspect than through cultural contacts which can bring people together and can deepen the appreciation of each other's social reality, beliefs and ideals," he said.

The films selected for this

year's festival included top films from eight of the European Community Member states, namely, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, and the Netherlands.

The Greek film "To Rembetiko" tells the story of a young woman born to a Greek immigrant family. The woman, named Marika, is forced to lead a harsh life. She escapes her father's domination as a child only to run into more distress in her life. From beginning until the end Marika's life is filled with sorrow and hardships. The film shows that although she understood

how it feels to be dominated and neglected as a child, she did not learn from those mistakes. Instead, she treats her daughter, in exactly the same way her father treated her.

In the movie, Marika witnesses the murder of her mother by her father. After that incident, she escapes the grips of her father's lifestyle and marries a man who soon abandons her. Marika then decides to become a singer and joins a group of folk singers known as the Rembetiko.

The music by the Rembetiko, making up most of the movie, is a type of Greek music played on the bouzouki (a string instru-

ment) accompanied by words telling a story, often sad. Marika does not find it difficult to sing for this group as her life is a continuous sad story that she is putting in music.

During her singing career Marika takes on a lover who is not faithful to her. She eventually dies an obscure death during one of the carnival nights.

The film depicts the life style of the folk singers in Greece and the restoration and rediscovery of this kind of music in the fifties.

The festival comes in a landmark year for the European Community. During this year, 1992, the single European market

will be completed and come into effect starting with January, 1, 1993.

The festival, according to Mr. Falkowski, goes to support the fact that the creation of the single European market, which will allow a free flow of goods, capital, people and services within Europe, has not been achieved at the cost of the cultural variety and vitality of the different European cultures and traditions, and the historic experiences and social perspectives that lead to the unique cultural fabric of today's 12 community member states, but will rather strengthen it and intensify cultural exchanges within Europe.

## Digital technology will blur TVs, computers, communications

By Bart Ziegler  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's been dubbed the digital revolution, and it could transform the way people get news, communicate, shop, learn and entertain themselves.

It also could give American companies a second shot at the consumer electronics market.

The catalyst for this revolution is the coming merger of today's computer, communications, media and home electronics industries.

Under plans being developed by companies such as IBM, Time Warner, Apple Computer and Microsoft, consumers would carry pocket-sized devices to send and receive messages, read news reports, take notes or look up a fact or phone number.

People no longer would miss an urgent message, a birthday or the answer to a trivia question — all the dates and facts and communications would be at their fingertips.

These "information appliances," expected to cost a few hundred dollars, would be smart enough to sort out important messages from junk mail and to

file a friend's new address in the correct spot.

"You will be able to get whatever information you need when you need it wherever you are," said Lucie J. Fieldstad, and IBM vice president overseeing the computer maker's entry into the field.

Under another scheme, TV sets would tap into computerised libraries of books, magazines and newspapers. Using a remote control, consumers also could use their set to order a pizza or place a picture-phone call.

In addition, the TV would provide "video on demand," or the ability to order almost any movie any time of day. Some movies even would allow the viewer to select a different ending.

Home-shopping channels would be turned into "virtual department stores," in which viewers "walk" down the aisles and order goods. Education programmes would ask viewers questions and grade them at the end. Sports programmes would allow fans to select a close-up shot or a wide angle view of the game.

What will bring about this mer-

ger of computers, media and communications is the move to digital technology, or the language used by computers.

Unlike today's analog devices, digital promises distortion-free portable phones and TV pictures as clear as photographs. Digital books, movies and other entertainment and information can be stored on central computers and sent on demand to consumers, over the air or via phone and cable-TV lines.

About now, sceptical readers are starting to groan. Sure, they say, this sci-fi future will come from the same folks who promised picture phones at the 1964 world's fair.

But wait. In just the past few weeks, news reports have shown a flurry of activity to bring this new world about:

Time Warner Inc., the magazine, movie and TV giant, is negotiating with the world's largest computer company, International Business Machines Corp., to develop an interactive, TV-based entertainment, education and communication system.

Industry sources told the Associated Press.

Other sources said Apple Computer Inc. is expected to demonstrate its first "personal digital assistant," an advanced, pocket-sized information organiser, at the end of May. Meanwhile, Apple announced it was working with publisher Random House to develop "electronic books" to read on Apple's portable computers.

The nation's major cellular telephone companies agreed to revamp their systems so they can send computer data, such as from pocket communicators, as easily as phone calls.

American Telephone and Telegraph Co. said it was developing technology to allow cable TV operators to supply "movies on demand."

"Companies are leaping into this," said Denise Caruso, editor of Digital Media, a newsletter that follows the emerging digital world. "It's really overwhelming."

Added Apple Chairman John Sculley: "It's going to be really, really big; it's going to be bigger than personal computers."

Already there are early signs of the revolution: A Hewlett-Packard Co. calculator-sized device that is as powerful as an early IBM PC; the wizard pocket-sized electronic organiser from Sharp Electronics Corp.; "multimedia"

PCS that mix text, sound and images, and compact-disc devices that provide the same effects on TVs; and experimental two-way cable TV systems.

Meanwhile, a company called TV Answer is developing an interactive TV system that would allow customers to pay bills and order products. Another small company, USA Video, is testing a system that can send a movie from a "video library" to a customer's TV over phone lines.

But these early efforts will seem primitive compared to the devices and networks planned in the next few years.

"The product we really want exists only in the imagination," said Richard Shaffer, publisher of the Trade Journal Computerletter.

There are a number of hurdles before the revolution arrives, experts said.

A key event is the coming development of high-definition TV, which promises sharper pictures and clearer sound than today's sets. The Federal Communications Commission is testing several systems to select a national HDTV standard. All but one of the proposals is based on digital technology, which the agency has said it favours.

That's in sharp contrast to Japan, which is going with an outdated analog HDTV system. Going digital should benefit

American makers of computer chips that will power the HDTV sets and broadcasting equipment. U.S. chipmakers lead in a key technology needed to "squeeze" digital TV signals to fit into today's analog broadcasting frequencies, and to store shows and movies on computers.

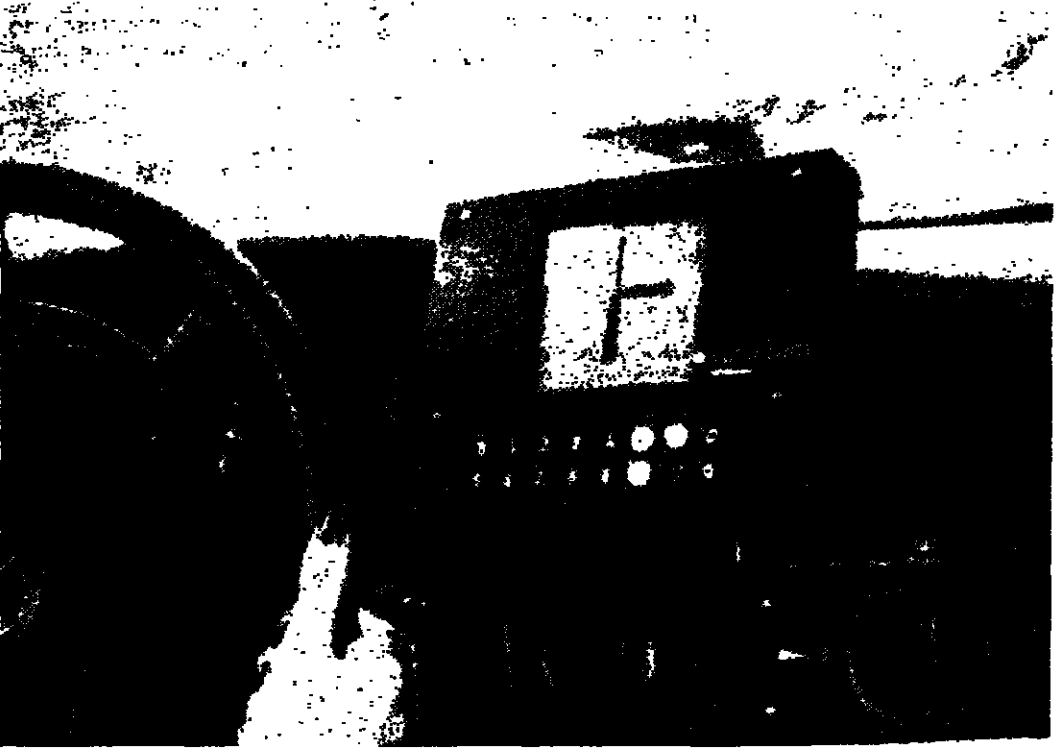
But others say the merger of computers and consumer electronics could have the opposite effect — Asian companies could dominate the manufacturing of these hybrid products, as they do today in making stereos, TVs and VCRs. That could damage the U.S. computer industry if the new products supplant traditional PCs.

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# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY MAY 24, 1992 7

## Cocoa prices slide

LONDON (R) — Cocoa prices, depressed by high world stocks and static consumption, slid to a 16-1/2 year low Friday and industry analysts warned they might fall further.

The value of the commodity has been on a downward trend since 1984. On Friday, July cocoa futures touched a morning low of £548 a tonne, before rebounding to £554 by early afternoon. Their previous record low close was £554 (\$1,009 at current exchange rates) in mid-1975.

"I think long-term we are looking at a bottoming action. Near-term however we may have a little bit further to fall," analyst Lawrence Eagles of commission house GNI said.

Analysts said seven consecutive years when production outstripped demand had led to huge stockpiles of cocoa. The trend was however set to be reversed for the 1991/92 season (October/September) and there seemed to be a good prospect of a bull market later this decade. Last week trade house Gill and Duffus forecast a world deficit of 107,000 tonnes in 1991/92, although the total was below its previous estimate of 177,000 tonnes as hopes of some growth in consumption appear to have not materialised.

## EC farm reform deal receives cautious world reaction

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community's (EC's) trading partners gave only a cautious welcome Friday to news of the most radical ever reform of the EC's common agricultural policy (CAP), saying obstacles remained to a GATT trade accord.

EC External Relations Commissioner Frans Andriessen hopes the accord will strengthen his hand when he visits Washington next week to seek an end to a row with the United States over farm subsidies which has blocked a world trade deal.

Joao de Deus Pinheiro, foreign minister of Portugal, said the deal on farm subsidies should help unblock the talks.

It also clarified the EC position on how far it could go in the area of agriculture, he added.

French President Francois Mitterrand said despite a European Community accord on cutting farm prices there was still a long way to go to a world trade agreement.

He told reporters after talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl the GATT hadn't advanced very far despite missions by European Commission President Jacques Delors and Mr. Kohl to Washington.

After returning to Bonn, Mr. Kohl said other countries must make compromises to break a deadlock in the GATT talks. "This (EC) decision... has created conditions for a successful conclusion of the GATT negotiations," he added.

The cautious welcome from non-EC nations seemed to be based both on the lack of detailed information on the deal immediately available and concern that the accord might be as far as the EC was able to go on reforming its controversial farm regime.

U.S. officials cautioned that the deal did not promise to settle once and for all the trans-Atlantic row over the EC's farm subsidies which has left the GATT world trade talks, launched in 1986, tottering on the brink of collapse for months.

They said at first glance it seemed the package fell short of the minimum acceptable farm trade reform spelled out in GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel's farm trade text.

Even if CAP reform resolves U.S.-EC differences over farm supports, U.S. trade sources said the EC has not agreed to export subsidy and market access reforms sought by Mr. Dunkel.

The EC farm policy reform calls for a cut of 29 per cent in the price of cereals. Farmers would be compensated for their losses providing they limit output by leaving 15 per cent of their land out of cereals production.

Washington's caution was echoed by members of the 14-nation Cairns Group of farm exporting nations which have been campaigning for an end to the EC-U.S. farm subsidy war on the grounds it is putting their own farmers out of business.

"On the face of it we are not completely happy but at least it's a change in the right direction at last. In other words the lunacy looks like it might stop at last," Australian Trade Minister John Kerin told reporters.

"It's a good sign, but it's not a black and white picture. ...let's wait and see the figures because historically the reductions have been so small they have been compensated for by improved technology which has resulted in yet a further expansion of the European agricultural subsidy," New Zealand's Trade Minister Philip Burdon said.

## Jordan modernises banking law

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A new set of laws aimed at streamlining the entire banking system in Jordan is expected to be presented to Parliament during the upcoming extraordinary session of the legislative authority beginning in June. Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi said Saturday.

The new legislation will address all "loopholes" in the existing law exposed in the past 28 years and will further facilitate banking flexibility rather than tightening the manoeuvrability of commercial banks in the Kingdom, Dr. Nabulsi said.

"The new law will be built on the large experience that we have acquired since the (existing) law was passed in 1964," Dr. Nabulsi told the Jordan Times. "Our experience has found that there are

many loopholes and unknown issues in the present law which need to be addressed."

"We hope that the law will be ready by June or July and hopefully it will be passed during the extraordinary session of Parliament," he said.

According to the CBJ governor, aspects related to licensing banks and controlling banking will be the two major elements of the new legislation, which will make up for the "shortcomings" which led us to use the powers of the Economic Security Committee (ESC) in the past.

Dr. Nabulsi specifically referred to the case of Petra Bank, which was taken over by the ESC in August 1989 and ordered liquidated in April 1990, and said that the ESC had to be brought in since the 1964 banking laws did

not contain provisions on "problem banks."

The collapse of several banks and troubles in others are seen as one of the main reasons that prompted the Central Bank to work on the new law. In addition to Petra Bank, which caused a loss of up to JD200 million to the treasury, other troubled banks included the Jordan-Gulf Bank, the Syrian-Jordanian Bank, the Al Mashreq Bank and the Islamic Investment Bank.

As a policy, the CBJ does not issue commercial banking licences anymore and instead encourages mergers with a view to reducing the number of commercial banks in the Kingdom.

Dr. Nabulsi recalled that the first time that provisions outside the banking law were used was in 1967 when deposits in the branches of Jordanian commercial banks in the West Bank had to be released after the Israelis occupied the territory.

"We would now like to set a

new judicial process in place to govern problem banks and violations — banking crimes as one might call it — and mergers and liquidation of banks," he said.

The new law, "which will have so many unaddressed issues and subjects unknown in the past," will incorporate all the elements for a smooth judicial process to be in place to deal with future problems, he added.

According to Dr. Nabulsi, it is a mistaken concept that the new law would curtail banking flexibility in Jordan. Indeed, he said, the law will tighten the banking system and CBJ monitoring of commercial banking, but "it will open the door for further flexibility as we have been doing in the past two to three years."

"There is no reason whatsoever to think that the new law will be any addition to the regulatory mandate of the Central Bank," he added.

CBJ Deputy Governor Michel Marto pointed out that the CBJ

had proposed and successfully incorporated amendments and additions to the 1964 banking law to allow for enhanced manoeuvrability for commercial banking operations.

Dr. Nabulsi said a "deposit-insurance" scheme to protect public deposits in commercial banks would be introduced under a special law.

Initial plans called for the introduction of the scheme as a CBJ regulation or a council of ministers decree, but then it was found that it would be better to deal with the issue through proper legislation.

"We hope to present this law to Parliament in June and to have it endorsed during this extraordinary session of Parliament," Dr. Nabulsi said.

The deposit insurance scheme will be the first of its kind in Jordan and will offer protection on public deposits up to a ceiling of JD 20,000.

### Financial Markets

Jordan Times  
In co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 22/5/92	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 21/5/92
Sterling Pound	1.8155	1.8160
Deutsche Mark	1.6155	1.6168
Swiss Franc	1.4860	1.4849
French Franc	5.4325	5.4335
Japanese Yen	129.25	130.30
European Currency Unit	1.2720	1.2836

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MYN	3 MYN	6 MYN	12 MYN
U.S. Dollar	3.93	3.93	3.93	4.31
Sterling Pound	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81
Deutsche Mark	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.43
Swiss Franc	8.93	8.94	8.62	8.62
French Franc	9.78	9.81	9.78	9.69
Japanese Yen	4.75	4.68	4.62	4.62
European Currency Unit	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.93

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
Gold	337.95	6.60	Silver	4.09

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
U.S. Dollar	0.678	0.660		
Sterling Pound	1.2375	1.2313		
Deutsche Mark	0.4191	0.4212		
Swiss Franc	0.4955	0.4578		
French Franc	0.1247	0.1253		
Japanese Yen	0.5243	0.5269		
Dutch Guilder	0.3721	0.3749		
Swedish Krona	0.1165	0.1171		
Italian Lira	0.0557	0.0560		
Belgian Franc	0.02034	0.02044		

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
Bahraini Dinar	1.7690	1.7750		
Chinese Lira	0.0400	0.0440		
Saudi Riyal	0.1806	0.1820		
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—		
Qatari Riyal	0.1837	0.1846		
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2250		
Omani Riyal	1.7350	1.7450		
UAE Dirham	0.1837	0.1846		
Greek Drachma	0.3575	0.3715		
Cypriot Pound	1.4850	1.5050		

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Index	13/5/92	Close	20/5/92	Close
All-Share	143.71		142.74	
Banking Sector	105.72		105.51	
Insurance Sector	149.31		151.55	
Industry Sector	197.26		195.00	
Services Sector	181.49		179.56	

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

## British government blocks Lloyds bid for Midland

LONDON (R) — The British government Friday called for a monopoly inquiry into Lloyds Bank's proposed bid for Midland Bank and allowed rival bidder HSBC Holdings to move closer to victory with its £3.3 billion (\$6 billion) offer.

The decision by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to refer Lloyds Bank PLC's hostile proposal to acquire Midland Bank PLC to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) is a serious setback for Lloyds, industry analysts said.

Lloyds, which is in direct competition with Midland in the British commercial banking sector, proposed a conditional offer for its rival valuing Midland at a theoretical £3.7 billion (\$6.75 billion), but has made no formal bid as yet.

In a statement the DTI also said it had no objection on public interest grounds to last month's

agreed offer by HSBC Holdings PLC, parent of the Hongkong Shanghai Bank, for Midland, in which it already has a stake of almost 15 per cent.

"We are obviously pleased at the DTI's ruling," said an HSBC spokesman. "This means we can proceed as planned."

HSBC's bid for Midland was approved by the European Commission on Thursday, having already been cleared by the bank of England, Britain's central bank and an industry regulator.

A Lloyds spokeswoman said the bank did not have an immediate comment on the government's decision, which had been widely expected by analysts.

"The crucial thing is Lloyds' response," said analyst Alison Deuchars at broker Smith New Court. "They may decide to launch a formal offer and waive one of their pre-conditions for bidding."

## Saudi Arabia lets OPEC go for a few dollars more

VIENNA (R) — Filling up your car could soon cost more now that Saudi Arabia has agreed with the rest of OPEC to take the brakes off prices and pump below expected demand.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we reached \$20 (a barrel) by the fourth quarter," said Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamoud Abdullah Al Rqobah, summing up the outcome of a two-day summit conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

That is almost \$3 more than OPEC's basket of crude oils has averaged for the first four months of 1992, and almost \$1.50 on the 1991 average.

The 13 oil producers, who supply more than one-third of the 66 million barrels per day (b/d) the world needs, agreed Friday to leave output unchanged until they meet again on Sept. 16.

Only Kuwait's scorched oilfields are exempted from raising production through the coming months.

The surprise was Saudi Arabia promising to sell only slightly above eight million b/d, contrary to all the signals from Riyadh before the talks.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the long-time motorists' friend whose calming influence stopped oil prices skyrocketing when the Gulf war started in January last year, decided the time was right to squeeze a few more dollars out of the barrel.

A \$60-billion bill to finance the war may have something to do with it, although one senior Gulf Arab official said the European Community's plans for a carbon tax on fossil fuels was a factor prodding Saudi thinking.

"We observed a better attitude from them. Saudi Arabia needs more money, we have to be convinced of that," said Algerian Oil Minister Nordine Ait-Laoussine.

Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgazez arrived in Vienna asking OPEC to cut supplies by around one million b/d from current levels of 23.3 million b/d, while the Saudi murmured that 24 million b/d was needed for the third quarter.

It all looked like OPEC's summer conference was settling down to a familiar routine of the price hawk pecking away at the moderates from Riyadh.

Mr. Azgazez's usual refrain at OPEC talks is a complaint that every dollar below OPEC's avowed \$21 a barrel target — unachieved since the early days of the Gulf war in January 1991 — costs cash-strapped Iran \$1 billion a year in revenues.

But things turned out differently for the Iranians this time.

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## Gulf Arab states welcome S. African trade

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Arab states are opening doors to South African business at a pace unimaginable six months ago, an executive of the South African Foreign Trade Organisation (SAFTO) said Friday.

Gyfford Fitchat, Middle East area manager for SAFTO, told reporters in Bahrain that the Gulf island state and Oman had led the way by establishing direct trade links with South Africa. He said he expected neighbouring states to follow suit soon.

"Certainly the western shore of the Gulf is a highly significant market in terms of openness — each country is adopting its own policy and following what it believes is good for its own business," he said.

"Bahrain and Oman have declared their trade totally open and we have reason to believe that other people in the Gulf will remove that restriction soon," he said.

SAFTO, which groups 1,500 firms, took its first delegation to the Gulf last February. A Bahraini trade delegation visited Johannesburg in April and a United Arab Emirates (UAE) team will follow in June.

The six members of the oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which import most of their food and manufactured goods, have not formally lifted sanctions against South Africa and officials say they are unlikely to do so ahead of the Arab League.

But commercial deals which

took place surreptitiously for years are gathering momentum as apartheid is dismantled.

Mr. Fitchat, who is leading 10 South African firms on a Gulf tour, said more than 70 Saudi companies had approached SAFTO after a March 17 referendum in which a majority of South Africans voted in support of President F.W. de Klerk's reforms intended to dismantle apartheid.

"There was very little contact with Saudi Arabia prior to that — it was a milestone in our new relations," he said.

Mr. Fitchat described relations with the UAE as "very positive" but declined to speculate why the southern Gulf state was not keen to acknowledge trade links.

Egypt has welcomed South African businessmen and the two countries recently established air links. Mr. Fitchat said non-Arab links, the only Middle East state besides Israel to have a consulate in South Africa, was also a target for South African exports.

He said South African firms would display food and manufactured goods openly in the Middle East for the first time at trade exhibitions in Dubai and Oman in October.

A leading arms manufacturer, Littleton Engineering Works, took part in a defence show in Bahrain two weeks ago.

"Six months ago none of this would have been possible... our purpose is to stimulate trade not break down political barriers... this will follow," Mr. Fitchat said.

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## Azeri enclave leader orders truce

ANKARA (R) — The leader of the embattled Azeri enclave of Nakhichevan declared a unilateral ceasefire Saturday to try to halt six days of clashes with Armenians, Turkey's Anatolian News Agency reported.

"I've told my men not to open fire even if the Armenians do so because we want peace, not war," Anatolian quoted Geidar Aliyev as telling reporters in Nakhichevan.

There were no reports of fresh fighting on Nakhichevan's border with Armenia and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel told a news conference in Ankara the frontlines were quiet.

At least 20 Azeris have been killed and 120 wounded since clashes erupted around the border town of Sadarak Monday after Armenian forces captured hills in Azeri territory.

Mr. Aliyev is leader of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic which is controlled by Azerbaijan but is squeezed between Armenia and Turkey and Iran.

Mr. Aliyev criticised Iran for failing to show sufficient concern about what he called "Armenian oppression."

"Why doesn't (President Akbar Hashemi) Rafsanjani say

a word about the issue? Why is Iran just a bystander? They are giving comfort to the Armenians," Anatolian quoted him as saying.

Mr. Aliyev said he was ready to make peace with Armenia as soon as Armenian forces withdrew from Nakhichevan's territory.

"We are ready to agree with Armenia if they give us back the hills (near Sadarak)," he said. "We cannot feel secure as long as Armenians hold the hills."

Reuters correspondents who witnessed the fighting earlier this week said Azeris were using assault rifles and machine guns against Armenian forces hitting Sadarak with rockets and shells.

Mr. Demirel Saturday ruled out Turkey annexing the Azeri enclave of Nakhichevan, Anatolian News Agency reported.

"This is out of the question. An annexation is not at issue... given the present world order and world conditions," the semi-official agency quoted him as saying.

Armenians, at war with Azerbaijan over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, said Nakhichevan started the fighting and there were no Armenian forces in the enclave.

Turkey said Friday it would open a second border crossing into Nakhichevan, whose inhabitants have close ethnic, religious and cultural ties with the Turks, at Dil Ucu, close to the meeting point between Turkey, Armenia and Iran.

The route's only other outlet into Iran, a bridge over the Araks, may be opened next Thursday, Mr. Demirel said.

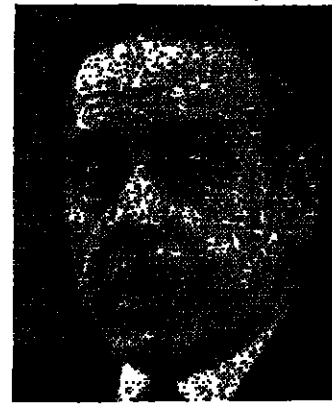
He said political instability in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, was one of the reasons for the intensity of the conflicts with Armenia over Nakhichevan and mainly Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh.

"The issue is linked with the internal instability in Azerbaijan. The instability there has a role in bringing the issue up to this level."

"Azerbaijan has had three or four changes of rulers in the past few months. We believe the elections in June will help them gain stability."

Turkish President Turgut Ozal has said Turkey should send troops to Nakhichevan immediately to help the Azeris but Mr. Demirel has ruled out the use of force.

Mr. Demirel will make an official visit to Moscow for two days from Monday to discuss regional



Geidar Aliyev

and international issues with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Official sources said he was expected to seek Moscow's support against Armenia.

Turkey and Georgia have agreed to tighten relations and cooperate in a regional initiative to resolve the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, a joint communiqué said Saturday.

The communiqué, issued after a two-day visit to Tbilisi by Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, said Turkey welcomed a Georgian proposal to set up a Caucasian Regional Consultative Council of heads of state or government to try to settle the dispute.

## 'N.Korean infiltrators carried U.S. arms'

CHULWON, South Korea (AP) — Three North Korean soldiers killed in a border gunfight with South Korean forces were disguised and carrying U.S.-style equipment including M-16 rifles, grenades and explosives, officials said Saturday.

Two South Korean soldiers also were wounded Friday in a fierce battle in which the South's troops hurled grenades and fired 1,200 rounds of ammunition, officials said.

It was the most serious firefight reported along the 248-kilometre-long frontier since 1980, and followed recent moves towards peace by the rival Koreas.

North Korea's official Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, claimed Saturday that the South's report of a clash was a fabrication meant "to foil the North-South dialogue which is now developing favourably."

In February, the two sides concluded a reconciliation agreement and a nuclear arms ban treaty. But in a meeting Saturday at the border village of Panmunjom, they failed again to agree on reciprocal inspections of nuclear sites under the treaty, officials said.

"Despite the recent changes in inter-Korean relations, there is no change in the confrontational situation in the demilitarised zone," Col. Lee Yong-Sok, commander of the 120 South Korean troops involved in the incident, told visiting reporters Saturday.

Chulwon is in the area where four South Korean army helicopters were fired on by North Korean soldiers after they strayed into the four-kilometre region, dubbed the punchbowl, was one of the bloodiest battlegrounds in the 1950-53 Korean War because of its strategic location as an invasion route.

It is also near a North Korean invasion tunnel found in the 1970s and within sight of giant South Korean concrete tank traps that North Korea has called a Berlin-type wall.

Col. Lee said the North Korean infiltrators were dressed in uniforms similar to those of the South Korean army and were carrying no identification.

He displayed more than 200 items he said were taken from the bodies, including three M-16 rifles and 9mm and .45-caliber pistols of the style used by both U.S. and South Korean forces.

There also was a Finnish-made compass, ammunition, grenades, wire-cutters, Japanese-made chocolate, dried rice and underwear with the South Korean label "Doublebell" caked with dried blood.

The North Koreans were carrying a Japanese video camera, blank video tapes, a still camera and 18 rolls of film, suggesting they were part of a surveillance team, officials said.

A source close to the investigation told the Associated Press the dead men were wearing several uniforms in layers that could have been civilian and military apparel. These included black camouflage suits, the source said.

The gun battle erupted after a South Korean Army patrol team intercepted the North Koreans.

## Lisbon meeting to assess aid priorities of CIS

LISBON (AP) — Officials of the more than four dozen countries gathering Saturday to assess their financial aid to the republics of the former Soviet Union say they don't expect any new pledges.

Also at the conference, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was expected to sign protocols with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan putting into practice the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

The United States, Japan and the European Community also were to sign an agreement with Russia, creating an international research centre in Moscow to help thousands of nuclear scientists move from military to civilian projects.

That centre was launched in February to prevent Soviet scientists from selling their skills to unstable regimes.

The conference will assess Western emergency aid that resulted from a similar international meeting in Washington in January.

Since then, the former Soviet States have gained entry into the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, paving the way for massive reconstruction aid.

Aid to the former Soviet republics, either already given or pledged, totals about \$90 billion, according to figures released on the eve of the conference.

Officials said no more financial aid is expected. They said the conference marked the start of a transition from emergency aid to alleviate chronic food and other shortages to longer-term cooperation aimed at rebuilding the economies of the former Soviet states.

On Friday, Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao De Deus Pinheiro said that longer-term aid would focus on broad assistance to establish free-market economies and democratic institutions.

"It's not only an act of solidarity, it's an insurance policy for the next 50 years," he told a news conference with his Russian counterpart, Andrei Kozyrev.

## Lithuanians vote on presidential controversy

VILNIUS (R) — Lithuanians went to the polls Saturday to resolve a heated national debate on how soon to elect a president and how much power to give him.

The 2.5-million voters of this former Soviet republic were offered the choice in a referendum of whether or not to approve a proposed law on creating the post of president.

A "yes" vote would lead to elections within the next four months in which Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of Lithuania's successful struggle for independence from Moscow, is favourite.

Radicals to the right of the political spectrum favour this course, saying the Baltic state needs a president with strong powers to haul it out of political and economic crisis.

"Of course I voted yes, because I'm interested in politics and I know what Lithuania needs — a president who will be able to fight with the Communists," retired teacher Ona Cerniaviciene said after casting her vote in Vilnius.

"Today, when Lithuania still faces threats from the east, we must be united and support elections for a president."

The opposite view is taken by a strong alliance of liberals and leftist parties in parliament. They urge a "no" vote because they fear that concentrating too much power in the president's hands could lead to authoritarian rule.

This group agrees a president is needed but says the country should pass a constitution first that would regulate his powers.

## Filipino candidate begins election protest fast

MANILA (R) — Outspoken ex-judge Miriam Santiago launched a "fast to the death" Saturday to protest against alleged widespread election fraud, which she said would cause her to lose the Philippine presidency.

Wearing a white hospital gown, the pugnacious former cabinet minister who led a popular crusade against corruption, began her fast under medical supervision in an air-conditioned private suite in the Philippine Heart Centre for Asia.

Her opponent, ex-defence chief Fidel Ramos, has piled up a margin of almost one million votes over second-placed Eduardo Cojuangco, a business tycoon. Mrs. Santiago is third.

Mrs. Santiago, dubbed "iron lady of the east" by admirers, will receive vitamins through an intravenous drip during her stay in the hospital built by political rival Imelda Marcos, wife of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Mrs. Santiago, a 46-year-old mother of two, launched the fast to protest against alleged rigging of vote-counting by presidential elections which she claims to have won.

Mrs. Aquino's Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon, who has denied government involvement in vote-rigging, said Mrs. Santiago's fast was unnecessary.

"Everyone is within his or her right to have all forms of protest. But I don't think this is necessary," he said.

"I don't think it will bring her anywhere by going to this kind of protest. If there is any evidence of fraud, submit it to the Commission on Elections. It is as simple as that," Mr. Drilon told reporters.

Twelve days after the election, only 55 per cent of the estimated 25 million votes have been counted by the MQCC.

The count showed Gen. Ramos ahead of Mr. Cojuangco by more than 970,000 votes. The former armed forces chief had 3.38 million votes against 2.41 million for Mr. Cojuangco. Mrs. Aquino's estranged cousin and "king crony" of Ferdinand Marcos.

Mrs. Santiago, who led in the initial counting, is trailing Mr. Cojuangco by 20,000 votes.

## Largest party head quits over Italy vote chaos

ROME (R) — Italy's political chaos deepened Saturday after the head of the squabbling Christian Democrats (DC) resigned and the latest attempt to find a new head of state failed.

"It seems to me useless to carry on," ex-Premier Arnaldo Forlani wrote in a letter of resignation within hours of DC parliamentarians torpedoing his bid to get a former Socialist minister elected president of the republic.

The absence of any agreement between the major parties on a suitable candidate meant almost 400 electors prolonged the deadlock by casting blank votes in the 15th ballot.

Mr. Forlani's humiliating withdrawal came after a furious Socialist leader Bettino Craxi — once a close ally — scathingly told him after the failed vote: "There is no point in talking. It's clear you no longer control your party."

Mr. Forlani, 66, last month took the blame for the DC's worst-ever showing at the polls, but had himself last week unsuccessfully stood for the presidency with Mr. Craxi's backing.

Former Justice Minister Giuliano Vassalli got 351 votes Friday — well short of the 508 needed — after a defection by DC electors who ignored a four-party pact brokered by Mr. Forlani to support the Socialist candidate.

"The DC is completely untrustworthy and unreliable. This just proves it is not really a party but only a group of warring clans," commented Giuliano Di Donato, deputy leader of the Socialists.

"It will be extremely difficult to persuade our electors ever to vote for a DC (presidential) candidate again."

Mr. Forlani's resignation Friday night left Italy's largest party leaderless, increasing the country's power vacuum.

Fifteen attempts by parliament to find a successor to Francesco Cossiga, who resigned on April 24, have so far failed. A new government cannot be named until a president is elected.

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti resigned on April 24 after his DC-led alliance suffered a severe setback in inconclusive general elections earlier in the month.

## Japanese leaders threaten snap poll on troops bill

TOKYO (R) — Japanese ruling party politicians threatened Saturday to call a snap election if the opposition continued to block a bill authorising Japanese troops to serve abroad as United Nations peacekeepers.

"If (the Socialists) raised their ugly heads and opposed the U.N. peacekeeping operation bill, we could dissolve the lower house of parliament," Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told a seminar.

Tamake Watanuki, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), made a similar threat and criticised the Socialists for trying to stall debate on the bill.

The remarks by Mr. Watanabe and Mr. Watanuki renewed speculation that the LDP, facing a possible setback in nationwide upper house polls in July, could call a general election in both houses.

In apparent preparation for snap elections, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa ruling party bosses this week to act on an overdue

plan to redistribute parliamentary seats.

The adjustment of lower house seats would clear a major legal obstacle for Mr. Miyazawa to dissolve that chamber and call elections for both houses on the same day.

The ruling party, mired in financial and bribery scandals, could expect to lose seats in a protest vote if the July upper house elections were held by themselves.

In 1980 and 1986 when the LDP called elections in both chambers, voters shrank from gambling on a divided opposition and returned them to power.

The LDP has a commanding majority in the more powerful lower house but has been in a minority in the upper house since 1989.

The government, which has been under international pressure to make a more visible contribution to global security, has placed high hopes on the peacekeeping bill.

## Johnny Carson takes final bow on Tonight Show

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. television marked the end of an era Friday night when Johnny Carson took his last bow after 30 years as host of "the tonight show," tears welling in his eyes as he bid his final goodbyes.

"So it has come to this," Mr. Carson said, his voice breaking almost imperceptibly as he closed the final show.

"I am one of the lucky people in the world. I have found something I liked to do, and I have enjoyed every single minute of it," he said during the taping of the show hours before it was to be broadcast late Friday night.

"I bid you a very heartfelt goodnight," he said, applauding one last time as the members of the audience applauded, many who also had tears in their eyes.

The 66-year-old king of late-night television stepped down from his throne after three decades during which he came to rank with newscaster Walter Cronkite and the late variety show host Ed Sullivan as an American television icon.

But Mr. Carson said his television career is not over.

"I hope when I find something that I want to do and I think you will like and come back that you will be as gracious in inviting me into your home as have been," he said.

The final show paid tribute to The Tonight Show hosted by Mr. Carson, with clips of singers, comedians and politicians.

Mr. Carson started as the show's host on Oct. 1, 1962 and over 30 years the show remained a constant in a changing landscape.

NBC estimates that Mr. Carson, watched nightly by an estimated 12 million people, has had over 24,000 guests on his show and asked them more than 200,000 questions.

As Mr. Carson retires, he takes with him a well-known retinue, including his almost-silent sidekick Ed McMahon and band leader Doc Severinsen.

Jay Leno, the comic who later became Mr. Carson's frequent fill-in, will take over as the new, permanent host Monday with a whole new cast.

## Fighting rages in Bosnia ahead of peace talks

BELGRADE (R) — Muslim and Croat forces battled Serb gunmen in northeast Bosnia Saturday as leaders of their warring communities prepared to meet European Community peace-makers in Portugal.

The Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug reported heavy fighting in and around the ethnically-mixed towns of Tuzla and Brcko.

Sarajevo, devastated by a month of artillery bombardments by Serbs opposed to Bosnia's independence from Yugoslavia, was quiet.

Residents used the lull to buy bread and milk and pick through the slim supply of onions and spinach arrayed on vegetable stalls after being smuggled through the Serb blockade of the city.

At the nearby Serb stronghold of Pale, where the siege is orchestrated, police gave Muslims an ultimatum to surrender their weapons Saturday after two policemen were killed and five hurt in an attack Friday night.

The Yugoslav army was due to start evacuating its four barracks in Sarajevo and complete its withdrawal from the city by Sunday evening.

Some 5,000 Muslim women and children from Sarajevo arrived in the Croatian port of Split Friday after being released by Serb gunmen who held them hostage in the city for two days.

The fighting in the northeast went on despite intensified Western efforts to halt the conflict, which has cost more than 2,200 lives and made almost a million people homeless since March.

Apart from the intercommunal talks in Lisbon, EC foreign ministers were meeting U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in the Portuguese capital to discuss toughening sanctions against Serbia, which they blame for the crisis.

The meetings followed Bosnia's admission to the United Nations Friday and speculation

that Security Council members would discuss U.N. sanctions against Serbia next week.

Mr. Baker said in London Friday that the events in Bosnia were unconscionable and added: "We hope and believe that there can be some coordinated action by others in the civilised world who like ourselves will be unwilling to sit back and watch what really is a humanitarian nightmare."

Islamic countries, alarmed by the danger to Bosnia's predominant Muslim community have also lined up behind the crackdown on Serbia.

The United States is closing two of the three Yugoslav consulates in the U.S. and has banned flights by the Yugoslav Airline JAT. The EC is considering a trade embargo.

The West has rejected Serbia's denials of responsibility for the conflict which has steadily worsened since March, when Bosnia's Muslim and Croat majority voted for independence.

Bosnian Serbs, a one-third minority of the 4.3 million population, have fought the secession with the help of the Yugoslav army.

They now control two-thirds of Bosnia's territory, where they have proclaimed a Serb republic. It has its own army, led by battle-hardened commanders, and has mobilised all men and women over 18.

Western countries believe none of this could have happened without the active support of Belgrade which they suspect of trying to create a greater Serbia out of territorial gains made at the expense of neighbours.

Any hope of progress at the EC peace talks depended on leaders of the three communities taking part in direct negotiations.

This looked unlikely after a Bosnian presidential spokesman said Friday that Muslim representatives would refuse to negotiate with Radovan Karadzic.

## Candidates jockey for position in California

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — In the aftermath of the Los Angeles riots, U.S. presidential candidates have begun jockeying for political advantage before next month's California primary election.

The June 2 vote in America's most populous state is the last major test of strength before the general election in November — and the looting, burning and mayhem that engulfed Los Angeles and spread to more than a dozen cities last month has put race and poverty back on the campaign agenda.

Top candidates in the California primary are taking widely differing approaches to the issue. With his job-approval rating at an all-time low, President George Bush sent Vice President Dan Quayle to California this week to act as his surrogate.

But Mr. Quayle immediately sparked a controversy. He blamed the violence on a "poverty of values" and the breakdown of families in inner cities, citing as an example a popular television series, Murphy Brown, in which an unmarried woman has a baby.

Brown, a fictional TV news-woman played by actress Candice Bergen, gave birth Monday night — with 38 million Americans watching.

New York Governor Mario Cuomo said Mr. Quayle's remarks displayed a "comic-book mentality" and the White House tried to distance itself from the flap.

But political analysts believe

Mr. Quayle's comments struck a chord with conservative Republicans, a growing source of strength for the party in California.

"Republicans are experts at pandering to the narrow views of white suburbia," said Byron Jackson, a professor of urban politics at California State University.

"In their eyes people of colour riot because they are innately bad, not because of deep social problems coming from years of government neglect."

California will be a critical battleground in the Nov. 3 election, when President George Bush is expected to face Democratic front-runner Bill Clinton and a strong independent challenge from Texas billionaire Ross Perot.

Mr. Perot, who recently passed Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton in a major nationwide poll, is also ahead in California.

He criticised Mr. Bush for not going to Los Angeles as soon as the riots broke out, though he himself has kept his distance from the city.

In campaign swings through San Francisco and Los Angeles, Mr. Quayle drew the ideological battle lines on so-called "family values" and repeated a tough law-and-order message, saying those who took part in the riots should be dealt with harshly.

He took a much harder line than Mr. Bush, who condemned "wanton lawlessness" during his tour of Los Angeles a week after the riots but also spoke to sceptical residents of his desire to ease their plight in the inner city.

Mr. Clinton, who has all but sewn up the Democratic nomination, has preferred a quieter approach.

He delayed his trip to California for several days after the riots and his criticism of Mr. Bush's policies was relatively muted. He also emphasised the need to rebuild devastated areas.

Clinton is preaching moderate policies to appeal to white middle-class voters who have backed Republicans in recent elections. But he has steered clear of promises that might allow the White House to brand him a traditional tax-and-spend Democrat.

Meanwhile, the strong support expressed for Mr. Perot increases the chance that the House of Representatives may choose the next president of the United States for the first time since 1824.

Right now, polls are showing President Bush, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Perot splitting the vote evenly.

Former President Gerald Ford told a television interviewer this week: "What worries me is that he (Perot) won't muddy the election we will have no president elected on Nov. 3 and we would have the House of Representatives, 435 politicians, deciding who will be the next president rather than the people."

This is how it would work. Mr. Bush, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Perot compete in the November election to win a majority in the 538-member Electoral College.

This is done by winning states

in the popular vote. Each state has a contingent in the Electoral College proportional to the state's population and each candidate has a vote of state electors pledged to vote for him.

After the election the electors pledged to the winner in each state should all cast their vote for him.

Under the constitution, if the three competitors split the states and none wins a majority of 270 electors on Nov. 3, the new House of Representatives, which normally does not meet until January, will choose between them.

And voting in the 435-member House would not be on a one-representative, one-vote basis. It would be on a one-state, one-vote basis. Whichever candidate gets the most votes when the state representatives vote among themselves gets the state's vote for president. A majority of the states, 26, is needed to elect a president.

"The one-state, one-vote system creates an infinite variety of fascinating possibilities," Lloyd Cutler, who was White House lawyer for President Jimmy Carter, wrote in the Washington Post.

Some of them are: — Twenty six small states, which have only 16 per cent of the total U.S. population, could elect the next president.

— The winner of the most votes in the popular election may not be chosen. In 1824, in a four-way race, Andrew Jackson won more popular and electoral

votes than John Quincy Adams. But Adams was elected president in the House.

— Even if Clinton comes in third in the popular vote, he might have the best chance to be elected in the House. The present House has 31 state delegations with a Democratic majority, 10 with a Republican majority, eight evenly divided and one with a single independent representative.

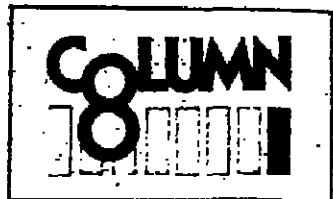
But there is no certainty that the delegations would vote along party lines. For instance, a Democrat in a state where Mr. Bush won a strong plurality of the vote would be under pressure to vote for Mr. Bush.

The constitution stipulates that if the presidential choice is thrown to the House, the Senate will choose the vice-president from among the top two vote getters in the popular election on a one-senator, one-vote basis.

The Senate could wait until the House election and then dutifully elect the winner's choice as vice president. Or it could elect a vice-president from a different party than the president.

If the House has not chosen a president by Jan. 20 — the constitutionally-mandated inaugural day — the Vice-President chosen by the Senate would act as president until one is chosen.

If neither House nor Senate chooses by Jan. 20, the speaker of the House, now Democratic Rep. Thomas Foley of Washington state who is likely to keep his post after the election, would act as president.



## Royal wedding wishes: 294 things

LONDON (AP) — What does one give a royal bride? According to Lady Helen Windsor's wedding list, published in a London newspaper Thursday, matching his-and-her (blue-and-pink) water bottles would be welcome, as would a Nintendo computer game and a \$444 (\$800) croquet set. Brian Sewell, the art critic for the London Evening Standard, won't say how he got hold of the 294-item list, which totals £18,000 (\$32,400) and which he said was included with wedding invitations.

"Two things emerge from the list — extravagance and vulgarity," Mr. Sewell wrote. Lady Helen, a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and the 21st in line to the British throne, will marry Timothy Taylor, a 28-year-old art dealer, on July 18 at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The Duke and Duchess of Kent reportedly have invited 800 guests for their daughter's wedding. Most other London newspapers published the list in Friday's editions, including the sober Daily Telegraph which lamented the leak. "Oh